

Ethiopian plane hijacked

CAIRO (R) — A hijacked Ethiopian airliner landed at Cairo airport on Saturday, airport sources said. The sources said the plane landed safely on a remote runway which police and technical staff had sealed off. The Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 727, with three Ethiopian hijackers aboard, had come from Aden in Yemen, where it spent several hours on the tarmac. Egyptian security officials boarded the plane at Cairo Airport to talk to three gunmen, airport officials said. A special military unit was refuelling the plane at the request of the Ethiopian hijackers who seized the Boeing 727 on a scheduled flight between Addis Ababa and Sanaa. The gunmen told the control tower in Cairo there were 14 people aboard the plane but it was not known who they are or if there are any passengers among them. All or most of the passengers disembarked in Djibouti before the plane was diverted to the south Yemeni city of Aden. The airport officials said the Egyptian security officials were unarmed but gave no other details. In Aden, the hijackers had asked to put their demands to the U.N. representative and the British Consul in the city but they later told the plane to take off without seeing them.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الزاوي

Violent crime hits new record in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — Violent crime in the United States reached a record high last year and teenagers committed one-sixth of all homicides, according to government crime statistics released on Saturday. The rate of violent crime, which includes murder, assault, robbery and rape, increased 3.6 per cent according to the 1991 uniform crime reports, a compilation of records from 16,000 local law enforcement agencies across the country. The statistics showed 24,703 murders in 1991, up 4.3 per cent to a rate of almost 10 per 100,000 people, and Washington had the highest murder rate of any large city. Overall, crime rose at a rate of only one per cent in 1991, according to the statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Firearms were used to commit 14,265 homicides, a jump of 9.4 per cent from the previous year and representing six of every 10 murders. The number of murders committed with handguns rose 13 per cent. Nearly one-sixth of murders were committed by youths aged 15 to 19, who made up a larger proportion of killers than any other age group. The report noted a surge in youth arrests for murder during the 1980s.

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UTA bomb came from Benin

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — Explosives used to blow up a French airliner over Niger in 1989 were provided by sources based in Benin, President Nicéphore Soglo said Saturday. France has accused Libyan agents of being involved in the Sept. 19, 1989, bombing of the UTA airliner over the Sahara Desert that killed 171 people. Mr. Soglo, answering questions from reporters, said a former Benin army captain may have been involved in the deal which sent the explosives to Congo. The captain, Pascal Tawes, fled Benin after being accused of attempting to organise a mutiny of army units earlier this month. "You know very well that the explosives put on the DC-10 in Brazzaville, which blew it up, came from here," said Mr. Soglo. He added that those who delivered the explosives may have been involved with drug dealers. "Our country became the hinge for another country which used us as a base for terrorist operations," he said. A Congolese man, Bernard Yang, told French investigators he helped Libyan intelligence agents smuggle the bomb on board the flight. Acting largely on Yang's declarations, French judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere issued international arrest warrants for four Libyans, including Abdullah Senoussi, the head of Libyan intelligence and brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Opposition rejects Morocco constitution

RABAT (R) — Seven Moroccan opposition parties said Saturday they had decided against a new constitution drafted by King Hassan and were recommending their followers do not take part in a referendum on it next Friday. Some said they were boycotting the referendum, others chose the less assertive phrase "non-participation." None went so far as to tell their supporters to vote "no" despite some pressure to do so from the grass roots. Under the new constitution, the fourth since independence in 1956, King Hassan delegates some of his extensive powers to the government and parliament, apparently in response to insistent demands from the opposition. Eight centrist parties are in favour, including the four which form the majority in the current parliament — the Constitutional Union, the National Assembly of Independents, the National Democratic Party and the People's Movement. Diplomats said they expected a majority of the 11 million voters to vote in favour of the constitution.

Blast near Khomel shrine kills mourners

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb exploded in the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery outside Tehran, killing and wounding several people, an Iranian newspaper reported Saturday. The explosion — the first made public since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988 — comes amid growing public frustration with the state over the economy and political reforms. The cemetery, 16 kilometres south of Tehran, contains the graves of thousands killed in the war as well as the tomb of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the father of Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. The Parsi-language Jomhuri Islami said the hand-made bomb exploded Thursday as "thousands" were gathered in the sprawling compound. The report said the bomb apparently had been concealed in a basket or vase.

India tests missile for the ninth time

NEW DELHI (AP) — India on Saturday fired a medium-range surface-to-surface missile it expects to use for defence purposes, news reports said. It was the ninth test launch of the Prithvi missile since February 1988 and the third since it was handed over to the Defence Ministry by the Science and Technology Ministry, which carried out the missile's first six launches. Prithvi, which means "Earth" in Hindi, was launched at 0513GMT in clear weather, 1,240 kilometres southeast of New Delhi on the Bay of Bengal coast, reports said.

Iraq says it hopes to wear out coalition

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Saturday it disdained the "no-fly" zone imposed in the south and expected Western allies to tire of playing policeman to Saddam Hussein.

A cabinet meeting, presided by Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi, was briefed on the political situation "represented by the U.S., British and French hostile scheme against the country and its evil dimensions," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

The reference was to the "no-fly" zone which the Gulf war allies imposed in southern Iraq from Thursday, barring any Iraqi flights in the area.

"The council confirmed the work to resist this plan with all its aspects and dealing with it with the disdain it deserves and meanwhile to continue the political and mobilising activity inside and outside Iraq," INA said.

"The council stressed the importance of perseverance and serious action at maximum capacity throughout the state, without leaving any vacuum or gap not filled with the energy of the glorious Iraqi people to help foil the U.S.-British-French plot," it said.

A senior Iraqi official, who declined to be named, said Iraq planned to sit and wait for the United States, France and Britain

to tire of enforcing the zone and would not provoke a military confrontation with the Gulf war allies.

The official told Reuters that Baghdad could hold the south with its ground forces and was banking on the allies tiring of policing the "no-fly" zone before the U.S. presidential elections in November.

"There will be no confrontation unless (U.S. President George) Bush starts one," he added.

Baghdad Radio reported that the cabinet had met Saturday under Prime Minister Mohammad Hamza Al Zubeidi to discuss the flight ban below the 32nd parallel which the U.S.-led allies clamped on Thursday.

A cabinet member speaking after the session said Iraq will not be drawn into a confrontation that would hinder post-war reconstruction.

"They want to provoke us, but we will be really patient," Omid Medhat Mubarak, the minister of health, said in an interview with the Associated Press.

"They want us to shoot down their aircraft as they wanted us to do in the north, but we will not be provoked," he said, referring to a "safe haven" for the Kurds which the allies established last year.

"We have to analyse every step, think and stay calm and see what is going on. We will rebuild

with our people and our policies. They cannot destroy us," he said.

U.S. navy pilots flying over southern Iraq Saturday detected the first Iraqi air activity near the "no-fly" zone, but reported no encounters as they enforced air umbrellas in a bid described as aimed at protecting Shiite Muslim rebels.

"There is some activity on our radar ... they could be playing. They could be training. We can't tell," said an F/A-18 Hornet fighter-bomber pilot who spent over six hours early Saturday patrolling above Iraq's southern marshlands.

Pilots from the USS Independence said they detected activity within 50 kilometres of the zone.

About 100 missions were launched from the Independence between 5:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) Friday and the same time Saturday. The number was expected to increase by Sunday morning to 105 missions. Some planes escorted British Tornados, six of which were sent two days ago to Saudi Arabia to help enforce the flight ban.

The navy will not release details of the type of aircraft believed spotted, but the lack of spare parts has kept Iraq's civilian aircraft grounded for months.

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Ghali endorses allied plan; Turkey disturbed, page 2

Husseini freezes resignation; polls postponed in one district

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's pro-Syrian Parliamentary Speaker Hussein Husseini, who quit on Monday to protest at the country's general elections, withdrew his resignation on Saturday after appeals by deputies and political leaders, a parliamentary statement said.

"In response to the wishes of parliament members and religious and national figures... House Speaker Hussein Husseini has frozen his resignation so that those concerned (have the chance) to remedy the reasons and situations which led to this resignation," a parliament statement said.

Mr. Husseini, a Shi'ite Muslim, quit his post after accusing the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) of foul play in the country's first elections in 20 years.

Hizbollah won a landslide victory in the Baalbek area in the eastern Bekaa Valley defeating most of Mr. Husseini's co-runners. Mr. Husseini's co-runners. Mr. Husseini was re-elected.

The Interior Ministry said Saturday it was postponing the

election for five parliament seats in the largely Christian Kesrouan province because of a lack of candidates.

The second round of parliament balloting is scheduled for Sunday in Beirut and the nearby Christian and Druze mountain areas. South Lebanon residents will vote on Sept. 6. Elections were held last Sunday in the north and the Bekaa Valley.

The short ministry statement came after all candidates for the seats withdrew over the past three days. It did not say when elections for the five Maronite Catholic seats would be rescheduled.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, who quit the government on Wednesday after it refused to halt voting, was leading Christian opposition in the area, which is home to several hundred thousand members of the minority community.

Interior Minister Sami Al Khatib said he had accepted withdrawals by Mr. Bouez and four other Christian candidates.

Forty-nine other seats will be

decided on Sunday for the 128-seat parliament.

Right-wing Christians, mainly Maronites, have boycotted the elections, charging that balloting before withdrawal of Syria's peacekeeping troops from Lebanon could lead to a parliament tilted in favour of Syria.

The Syrians have said they would not withdraw before the elections. Prime Ministry Rashid Al Solh promised Sunday's vote in Beirut and Mount Lebanon would be fair and urged all Lebanese to take part.

"God willing you will witness next Sunday free and honest elections and no one will complain of anything," Mr. Solh said on a late-night Friday visit to the Christian suburb of Ashrafieh.

"The government is eager to achieve national reconciliation among all the Lebanese and to call on all Lebanese to exercise their duty to vote and elect representatives they think can carry out legislation and control the

(Continued on page 5)

Food airlift to Somalia undeterred by ambush

MOMBASA, Kenya (Agencies) — The United States will press ahead with its airlift to starving Somalia despite the shooting of two U.N. personnel by clan gunmen, U.S. military officials said Saturday.

The incident underlined the dangers facing relief workers in Somalia but the officials said they would continue to airlift food to towns where the risk of it being looted or fought over is minimal.

Guns from one of Somalia's feuding factions shot and wounded two U.N. military observers in Mogadishu on Friday and an orgy of looting and shooting broke out in the capital's port.

Ronald Libby, a disaster relief veteran with Washington's USAID agency, said the U.S. operation would not be affected by the shooting.

"I don't think the Mogadishu incident should affect our working with the U.N. We are working with the United Nations and are trying to establish the best areas to deliver food," he said.

He said Washington was determined not to squander food by sending supplies to centres where supplies would only be stolen by armed gangs who have fought for power since dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was overthrown in January last year.

"Starvation is not the number one problem in Somalia, it's the unrest," he said.

"It was a lot easier in Iraq after the war than it is here," said Mr. Libby, who helped send relief aid to Kurdish areas of Iraq at the end of the Gulf war.

U.N. under criticism
Thousands of lives are being needlessly lost in Somalia because the United Nations has failed to provide effective leadership, a British aid group said Saturday.

The U.N. response to crises in Somalia, Yugoslavia and elsewhere has been "ill-informed, ill-equipped and uncoordinated," said Nicholas Hinton, director-general of Save the Children.

Save the Children wants a single agency within the United Nations to be responsible for coordinating relief plans that address humanitarian, security and political problems as a whole, Mr. Hinton said.

Mike Aaronsen, the charity's overseas director, said U.N. relief plans for Somalia "remain on the level of generalities and pious hopes while giving little idea of how they can be implemented."

The U.N. Security Council voted late Friday to send 3,000 more troops to guard food shipments (see page 2).

Kabul truce holds despite differences

KABUL (R) — A ceasefire accord took hold in Kabul on Saturday between the Afghan government and the dissident Hezb-e-Islami party but differences emerged almost before the ink had dried on their signatures.

The Islamic Mujahadeen government announced a ceasefire with Hezb-e-Islami to end three weeks of fighting that has killed or injured thousands of civilians and forced one third of the capital's 1.5 million people to flee.

The ceasefire began at noon (0730 GMT), Defence Ministry spokesman Mamana Farid said. Around the same time Hezb rockets slammed into the deserted Russian embassy compound, but all rocket salvos had stopped by mid-afternoon.

Unilateral ceasefires announced by both for Friday were shattered soon after dawn when a Hezb rocket destroyed a plane sent to airlift Russian diplomats from Kabul. Four Russian commandos were hurt.

The last 50 Russian diplomats in Kabul and 10 commandos flew out aboard an Afghan army plane early on Saturday.

Both sides said the accord — signed separately and brokered by neutral Mujahadeen mediators — contained several



Qarrash remains in custody

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Security authorities Saturday appeared to keep Deputy Sheikh Yagoub Qarrash incommunicado as investigations of a secret armed group he was alleged to have founded and headed continued.

"Sheikh Qarrash has not been interrogated yet, but others implicated in the case were questioned today (Saturday)," said an informed source, declining to reveal any details.

Sheikh Qarrash's colleagues in the Lower House meanwhile complained that legal counsel was unable to establish contact with the Second District deputy, being held at the civilian Jwdeh prison outside Amman.

Third District Deputy Leith Sheblat, a long-time associate of Sheikh Qarrash, said a group of deputies including himself and Acting House Speaker Abdul Karim Al Dughmi met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker for "general discussions, during which the issue of Sheikh Qarrash was brought up."

"The prime minister assured us that the right to legal counsel was a fundamental right of every citizen and there was no need for any special intervention from any quarters," Mr. Sheblat told the Jordan Times.

However, efforts by lawyers to reach the prosecutor-general, Muhammad Hijazi, were unsuccessful, Mr. Sheblat said. "As for releasing Qarrash on bail, the

(Continued on page 5)

King leaves Mayo Clinic

ROCHESTER, Minnesota (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, walking with a cane but appearing in good spirits, Saturday left a hospital where he had surgery to remove a tumor in his urinary tract.

Before driving away, King Hussein, 56, held a brief news conference to say he was in "excellent shape" and to praise the care during his 12-day stay at the Mayo Clinic.

King Hussein was diagnosed as having cancer of the lining of the ureter, a tube that connects the kidney to the bladder. The malignancy was removed along with the King's left kidney during surgery Aug. 20.

The King will need checkups every three months to six months, but most of those will be performed in Jordan, said Dr. Samir Farraj, King Hussein's personal physician.

John La Forgia, spokesman for the southern Minnesota clinic, said King Hussein might make some stops before returning to Jordan. He did not have details of the King's itinerary.

Meanwhile King Hussein received a cable from former Mauritania President Mokhtar Ould Dada congratulating him on the success of the surgery. A similar cable was sent by the president of the European Community who wished the King's speedy recovery and continued good health.

In the occupied Arab territories several mayors and societies and organisations voiced their joy over the success of the surgery, while Palestinian newspapers there continued to publish congratulatory messages.

translations and best wishes for the King.

Cables were sent to the King by Director General of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) Jamal Balqaz, Greek Orthodox Patriarch Deodoros I, the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs, the secretary general of the Arab Doctors Federation, the West Bank Sports Clubs League, Ghazat Hashem Club, the Jordanian Federation for Sports Medicine, Ghor Al Safi Club, Al Juweida Club, the Jordanian Judo Federation, Mu'ab Charitable Society, Al Be'a Al Hashimiya Society, the mayors of Zarqa, Tafleh, Kreima, Umm Al Basatin, Yabla and Sama Al Roussan, Al Kafreen Club, the Australian Television Corporation in Amman and the Soldier Welfare Society.

Palestinian negotiators gloomy on peace prospects

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestinian negotiators, gloomy about prospects of progress at the end of a week of Middle East peace talks in Washington, have sent representatives to Tunis for consultations with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders.

Palestinian sources said the negotiators were frustrated at new Israeli proposals for limited self-rule in the occupied territories and they wanted to coordinate their stand with the PLO leadership.

"Our impressions are that except for the change in tone, the Israelis have not altered their positions," one senior source said.

"We want to put the Palestinian leadership in the picture and to receive directions for the course of action which we should take during the rest of the negotiating round," he added.

PLO leaders are barred from taking part in the talks but follow the negotiations from their Tunis headquarters. Several Palestinian officials including Nabil Shaath, a close aide to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, are in Washington to supervise the talks.

Israel has proposed an elected Palestinian council with administrative powers in 15 areas of land and with authority to issue secondary legislation.

Palestinians want elections for a council with full legislative and executive powers to govern the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said the Israeli proposals amount to sharing power rather than transferring authority as stated by the letter of invitation to the talks issued by the U.S. before the peace process

started last October.

"It is clear that they want to keep the source of authority in Israeli hands and would only transfer some powers to the Palestinians," Dr. Ashrawi said.

"We did not reach a dead end and we expected that the two sides would present two different proposals but we did not expect the gap to be this big," she said.

Negotiators from Lebanon, Jordan and Syria have also reported little progress in the first week of talks.

Chief Lebanese negotiator Soheil Shammass said Friday he had rejected so-called confidence-building measures proposed by Israel because "they are inviting us to legitimise the occupation and legalise it by inviting us to operate under their authority."

(Continued on page 2)

2 killed in Algerian shootout

ALGIERS (AP) — Two men were killed and three police officers wounded in the latest shootout between security forces and Muslim extremists, state radio reported Saturday.

The pair were stopped Friday for an identity check in the western town of Ain Defla when they pulled pistols and opened fire on the policeman, the radio said. They were killed in return fire.

Several people were arrested after the shootout, the radio said. A workshop to make grenades was discovered in the home of one of the slain men.

Scores of security-force members and armed Islamic extremists have been killed in ambushes and shootouts since January, when the military staged a coup to deny the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) victory in Algeria's first democratic legislative elections.

The party has since been banned and thousands of adherents jailed. Islamic bands have retaliated with almost daily attacks on security forces and government installations.

The FIS on Friday denied responsibility for the bombing at Houari Boumediene airport in Algiers that left nine people dead and more than 100 injured.

The bombing Wednesday at the airport's international terminal numbered many women and children among its victims. It was the first incident of blind terror in the current wave of unrest.

"The warriors of Islam are not authorised to strike without scrupulously defining their objectives within Islamic rules," said the FIS's clandestine newsletter, Friday Tribune.

"The accusing finger should be pointed at those who politically exploit the event with the goal of damaging the image of the warriors and the holy war," Friday Tribune said.

No-one has claimed responsibility for the bombing. Interior Minister Mohammad Hardi has suggested Islamic extremists were behind it.

Amnesty calls Tunisian Islamist trial unfair

LONDON (Agencies) — Amnesty International has expressed concern about the conviction of Islamic fundamentalist leaders in Tunisia, saying their trial was unfair.

Amnesty observers attended two mass trials before military courts at which 279 Islamic fundamentalists were accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government.

"Pre-trial and trial proceedings in both trials did not meet human rights standards for a fair trial," the London-based human rights organisation said in a statement.

A Tunis military court sentenced members of the banned Al Nahda (Renaissance) movement to life imprisonment on Friday for plotting to overthrow the government or assassinate President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali. Prosecution demands for death sentences were rejected.

The hearings have been held at Bouchoucha Barracks near Tunis. The main court was trying 171 defendants. A second court, where 108 people face similar charges, was expected to give its verdicts on Saturday or Sunday.

Amnesty said defendants in the first trial were sentenced on the basis of uncorroborated confessions allegedly extracted under torture and consistently denied in court.

"Most had been held in incommunicado detention for weeks or months after arrest and many of them still bore the marks of torture suffered over a year before," Amnesty said.

It said arrest dates had been consistently falsified to cover up illegal incommunicado detention. Amnesty said the prosecution brought forward only one witness who was withdrawn after he denied that the defendants had discussed a plot at any meeting and began weeping in court.

The rights of the defence were markedly curtailed. Amnesty said, with lawyers receiving dossiers only days before the trial and many were unable to see their clients.

Amnesty said that at the second trial, the president of the court "took a consistently hostile attitude to the accused, interrupting them when they attempted to speak of their torture or make any detailed statement about their activities."

(Continued on page 5)

With great relief and extreme happiness
Eng. Sabri Farah and Family
have the honour to extend to
HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN
and to the whole Arab Nation their congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of His Majesty's complete recovery from the surgery he had to undergo after striving for forty years to make the voice of reason heard in a crazy world.

Home News

Professional associations condemn move against Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The professional associations in Jordan Saturday issued a joint statement denouncing the Western powers' imposition of the air exclusion zone in southern Iraq as part of a plot to partition that country.

"The U.S.-led move to impose the zone on southern Iraq, which followed a similar move in the Kurdish part of northern Iraq, aims at dismembering the Arab country after discovering that the inhuman sanctions imposed on the Iraqi people yielded no fruit," said the statement.

"The conspiracy," the statement added, "is part of yet another link of a long chain of moves on the part of the Western powers to impose domination on the whole Arab World."

The professional associations in Jordan, which include the medical, dental, veterinarians, lawyers, engineers, agricultural engineers, pharmacists, geologists, writers, nurses, contractors and others, "consider the move on by the U.S. and its allies as part of plots aimed at depriving people of their rights and their freedoms," the statement said.

The statement said the "occupation of Palestine started with a partition of that country and was followed later by the imposition of the Zionist state; and the Arabs should realise that a similar plot is now being implemented in Iraq."

The professional associations said they believed the move against Iraq was directed against the whole Arab nation.

The professional association in Jordan "declare hereby their full support for Iraq's heroic stand in the face of the occupation forces and declare their solidarity with the Iraqi people, who are determined to defend their country's independence and sovereignty against the colonial powers' plots," said the statement.

The statement urged all social, humanitarian and political organisations around the world to provide support for Iraq and to condemn "the imperialist plots."

It also appealed to the Arab and Muslim nations to stand firm in the face of "U.S. criminal conspiracies which aim at ending Iraq's existence."

ILO director visits Queen Alia Fund

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Michael Hansenne Saturday reviewed the work and the programmes of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and toured community centres offering services to the local community.

Mr. Hansenne, who is on a five-day visit to Jordan, met with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti. He was briefed on QAF's small-scale income generating projects for the unemployed and ways followed by the fund to improve the income of poor families in Jordan.

Princess Basma, who is chairperson of QAF's board of trustees, explained that these projects were designed to help local communities and families in the rural region within the framework of a comprehensive socio-economic development process in Jordan.

Mr. Hansenne expressed ILO's deep interest in such projects describing them as a way to stem unemployment in most Third World countries.

He expressed ILO's readiness to cooperate with QAF and with the government of Jordan and the employers and workers to help them achieve the aspired goals.

QAF was founded by His Majesty King Hussein in 1987. Under his continued patronage as honorary chairperson, the fund has always worked as private non-profit making social welfare organisation.

QAF focuses mainly on urban areas, rural areas and the semi-arid desert regions, carrying out development programmes and helping housewives to get training in useful trades designed to help them improve their income.

Following the meeting with the Princess, Mr. Hansenne visited QAF community centre in Madaba and studied its programmes and services offered to the local community.

He also examined items on sale by the "rural market," where products and handicrafts produced by the local community are sold.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday meets with ILO Director General Michael Hansenne (left) in the presence of Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti (right) and other officials (Petra photo)

3 people found dead in Zarqa

Police save trapped children

ZARQA (J.T.) — Three people were found murdered in their house at Ghweirah in Zarqa Governorate last week. The three victims, all members of one family, had their house set on fire in what appears to be an attempt by the murderer(s) to conceal the traces of the crime.

Mr. Ghassab Abed Abul Hasan Alawneh, 35, from Nabbus, his wife Rudeinah 31, and their five-year-old son Fadi were found dead in their home by Civil Defence Department (CDD) men, who were called out to extinguish fire at the three-storey building where the victims lived, a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) said Saturday.

The spokesman said CDD men

were called last Monday to extinguish a big fire which gutted the house, and discovered three bodies covered with quilts.

Inspection on the scene showed that the three had been hit on the head with hard objects causing blood to gush out and cover their bodies, which were covered with an inflammable material, said the spokesman.

He said that the bodies of the man and his family members were carried to hospital for autopsy, which proved that the three were murdered before the house was set on fire.

According to the spokesman, the CDD men discovered three other children still alive inside a closed room which they forced open. The three children are those of the murdered family and they were described to be in good health at the local hospital, a PSD source told the Jordan Times.

The source said that nothing further can be revealed at this moment as investigations into the case are still underway.

The PSD spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that all cupboards in the house were opened and the furniture was in disorder and that empty boxes that contained jewellery were scattered on the floor.

The Zarqa prosecutor general is leading a team of investigators into the case, the PSD spokesman said. He said that a special PSD committee has been assigned to help in the investigations.

Anglican Church offers to help restore Dome of the Rock

AMMAN (Petra) — The Anglican Church Bishop in Jerusalem and the Middle East Samir Qafity Saturday expressed the readiness of Arab Christians to assist in restoring the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem through a Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Committee entrusted with this task.

In a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Bishop Qafity reviewed issues related to Jerusalem and expressed gratitude for His Majesty King Hussein's care for, and custody over Islamic and Christian holy places in the city.

Prince Hassan and Bishop Qafity also reviewed the fruitful outcome of cooperation and brotherly relations between Arab Muslims and Christians, particularly in decisive issues pertaining to holy places and the future of the region.

The Regent and the bishop stressed the need to continue such cooperation and preserve brotherly relations between Arab Muslims and Christians, particularly in decisive issues pertaining to holy places and the future of the region.

The bishop, who is a member of the Middle East Council of Churches, congratulated Prince Hassan on the success of the surgery which King Hussein

underwent Aug. 20.

Restoration works on the Dome of the Rock Mosque started last month after the Ministry of Awqaf granted a British firm a contract to restore the holy shrine, which was built in the year 691.

King Hussein contributed \$8.24 million to the restoration project which is expected to cost \$10 million.

Jordan has announced its commitment to cover the cost of restoring the Dome of the Rock, noting that the commitment was in line with the Kingdom's policy to support the Palestinian people and safeguard holy shrines.

Jordan has made clear that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) should not interfere in the work of the committee, following a bid by Saudi Arabia to finance the project through the international organisation.

Last week, news from Jerusalem said that work on gilding the dome with 80 kilograms of pure gold had started.

Director of Jerusalem Awqaf Department Adnan Al Hussein was quoted by news agencies as saying the golden layer will support gilded copper sheets, supported by lead beams.

Violators of fuel rules face penalties

AMMAN (Petra) — Strict measures should be taken against fuel distributors who violate regulations issued by the concerned authorities, a series of meetings recently held at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources suggested.

The meetings, which were attended by representatives of the ministries of energy, interior and industry and trade, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Civil Defence Department and the General Federation of Gas and Fuel Distributors, have decided to suspend the licences of violators who tamper with gas stations meters or reduce the quantity of gas in gas cylinders.

According to the meetings, regulations in this regard stipulate that those indicted of undertaking such acts might face a sentence of up to six months in prison.

The meetings also discussed issues related to ensuring the supply of fuel and gas cylinders to citizens according to measurements and specifications.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee reviews tajwili law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Education Committee met Saturday and discussed the prospect of amending the general certificate examination fees, and wages paid to Ministry of Education personnel who work overtime during the tajwili examinations' period. It also discussed amending the school fees system and the introduction of French language in the basic educational stage curriculum. The committee also discussed a report on administrative development training, the administrative development section and converting the computer department to a general directorate.

CSC receives 75,773 new job applications

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) said Saturday that 3025 people have been given jobs by the government this year. A statement said that the total number of people applying for jobs with government offices from the beginning of 1992 and until the end of June was 75,773 applicants. It said 3025 people were given jobs in the Ministry of Education schools, the Health Ministry and other departments.

Ministry sets election dates

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has set Dec. 15 as the date for holding municipal elections at Al Rawda town in the Mafrqa governorate. It said Nov. 24 through 26 are the dates for nominating candidates for the municipal council. The ministry also set Dec. 10 as the date for the municipal elections in Mafrqa in the Madaba district and said that candidates can be named on Dec. 1, 1992.

Doctors hold free medical day

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — A group of 12 physicians have conducted a free-of-charge medical day at Deir Abi Saeed. The Al Ashrafiah Sports Club, which organised the event, said that 600 local citizens benefited from the service.

Ag. icaltural seeds for sale

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) has announced it was ready to sell Jordanian farmers wheat, barley, chickpeas, and lentils seeds to be sown in the coming agricultural season. A JCO statement said that the seeds which are of high yielding quality could be purchased from the agricultural stations in Madaba, Irbid and Karak.

RSS, Chechen Republic to pursue cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting delegation from the Chechen-Ingush Republic, led by Deputy Prime Minister Yuragi Mohammad, Saturday visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), where it was received by its President Bani Al Mulki. The delegation was briefed on the establishment, duties and goals of the society. Mr. Mulki expressed the society's willingness to establish scientific cooperation with similar establishments in the Islamic republics in Asia Minor and the Caucasus region. He said a delegation from RSS will visit these republics soon to discuss this issue. Mr. Yuragi expressed his country's willingness to establish close cooperation with the RSS in various scientific fields. The Chechen delegation arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan.

Seminar studies marketing techniques

AMMAN (Petra) — A scientific meeting on marketing services started Saturday at the Jordan Management Institute. The meeting, in which several directors and officials from insurance companies and financial institutions are taking part, aims to study concepts of marketing services and to underline the importance of market and client studies. The course will last for eight days.

Health course opens in Salt

SAJ.T (Petra) — A health education course organised by the Balqa Health Department in cooperation with the Balqa Social Development Department opened at Al Buqei Health Centre in Salt Saturday. The four-day course will include lectures on health education, breastfeeding, food poisoning and first aid and will show a film on AIDS. Director of the Health Department Samir Al Awamleh stressed the importance of such courses in spreading health awareness among mothers and housewives.

Arab airlines not to raise fares, say government taxes hurt their business

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of Arab national airlines, who held a two-day meeting in Amman last week, announced Saturday that their airlines will refrain from introducing any air tariff increases during 1993 except for a limited number of routes affected by currency rate fluctuations.

In a statement issued Saturday, the airlines voiced their deep concern over Arab governments' steady increases of taxes imposed on air tickets, which makes it difficult for them to operate efficiently.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Royal Jordanian, Saudia, Kuwait Airways, Egypt Air, Gulf Air, Middle East Airlines, Iraqi Airways, Yemenia, Almidia, Sudan Air and Syrian Arab Airlines.

The meeting, which was organised by the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO), was also

attended by a delegate from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The participants discussed the pricing of air fares within the Arab region and were unanimous in deciding not to raise tariffs during the coming year, said the statement.

The participating airlines also decided to embark on a joint study leading to the announcement of special reduced air fares, said the statement.

The statement voiced the Arab airlines concern over the decline in air travel operations due to the steady tax increases on tickets imposed by the concerned authorities.

"Such practice is bound to increase the cost of air travel for passengers without giving any profit to the airlines," the statement said.

The statement said that the

airlines demanded that taxes and other charges imposed on tickets be compatible with the quality and level of services offered by the concerned governments to the passengers and to the air carriers.

The statement said the airlines were concerned over the expected adverse impact of the unification of Europe in 1993 on Arab airlines.

It urged the Arab League and the Arab Civil Aviation authorities to establish a body to take charge of the air transport industry in the Arab World because it is the second largest industry after the oil industry.

The participants called on AACO Secretary General Adli Dajani to set up a task force that would work out a pan-Arab civil aviation strategy taking into consideration modern developments in air travel and air transport.

Aqaba's gold coins shed new light on ancient trade routes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A hoard of 32 gold coins — 1000-year-old artifacts that reveal new information about the trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East were discovered during recent excavation works in Aqaba.

The coins were found in May at Aqaba by a team led by Donald Whitcomb, a research associate with the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute and director of the Oriental Institute's excavations in Aqaba.

Twenty-nine of the 32nd coins are especially rare and appear to have been produced in Sijilmasa in southern Morocco, a community that was a frontier post for trade in gold from West Africa.

It is the first time the Sijilmasa coins have been uncovered by archaeologists.

The announcement of the discovery was made jointly Aug. 26 by the Department of Antiquities and the University of Chicago.

"This is one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in Jordan in recent years," said Safwan Tell, director of the Department of Antiquities.

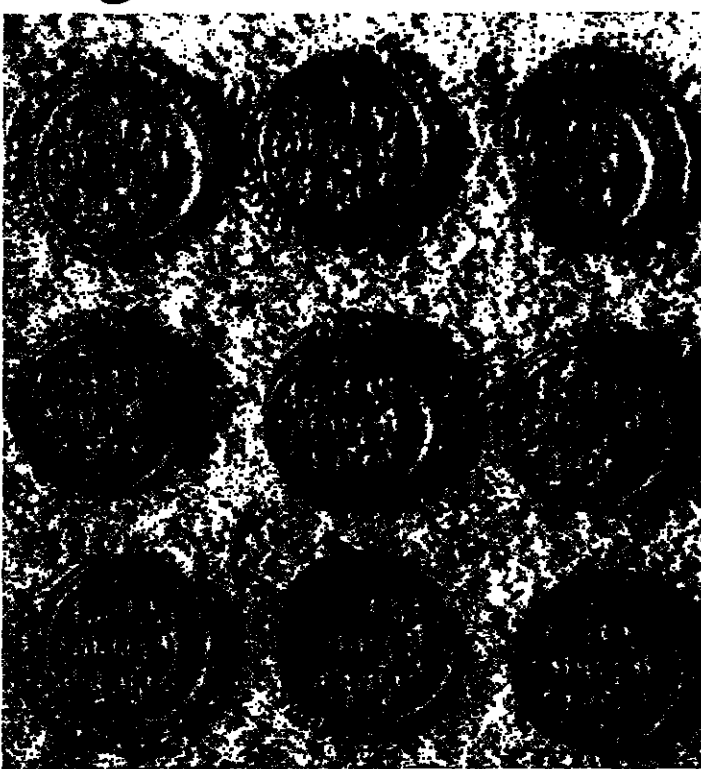
It (the discovery) shows us clearly the importance of this port as a trade site and underlines the value of the excavations in Aqaba. This site is bringing us new insights into the trade patterns existing during one of the most remarkable periods of Islamic history, a time of great advancement which corresponded in Europe with the Middle Ages," the joint announcement said.

The 32 gold coins in the hoard are dinars and formed a collection known at the time as traveler's or trader's "purse." The purse functioned as the travelers' checks of the time and was probably worth about \$3,000 in modern terms, Mr. Whitcomb said.

The purse's remaining three dinars, which were minted elsewhere in North Africa. All of the coins date from between 976 and 1013 A.D. The bag which probably contained the coins deteriorated and traces were not found at the site.

The coins found buried in a street that Mr. Whitcomb is excavating in Aqaba, an ancient port abandoned before the modern city of Aqaba was built.

"What is important about these coins is that they were found in an archaeological context," Mr. Whitcomb said. "A few similar coins are known to exist and sometimes other kinds of coins



are found by farmers in fields. But rarely do we find a hoard of gold coins that has been undisturbed for centuries."

He said an international team of scholars will begin this winter to examine the coins to determine their purity and seek other information. The gold pieces are now being held at the Department of Antiquities.

Because they were found together, the coins can give clues about the person who carried them and accordingly help establish a picture of the trade route of which they were part, Whitcomb said. Their discovery also could give researchers new evidence about some of the calamities that befell visitors to the Aqaba area, which was part of a system of stops along a trade route between China, the Middle East, and Europe.

"We're very excited about what this hoard can tell us," Whitcomb said. "Coin specialists are interested in the dies that were used to produce the coins. From a hoard, they can count the number of dies that were used to produce the coins, for instance. Scholars can estimate about how many coins were produced by each die, the production of each particular mint, and then estimate the wealth of a region."

"When you have a group of coins that comes from a dealer's shop, you're never certain where the coins came from or if they

quickmining of coins developed. The coins may provide important new evidence of who was in control of the city, which served as a sort of port at the edge of the Sahara," said Ron Messier, professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

"The discovery of this hoard underscores the importance of Sijilmasa as a mint city," said Mr. Messier, who is conducting an excavation of the city. "I have not found any gold coins in the city. These coins come from a very early period of minting."

"By examining the coins, we can determine who was ruling the city. This would help fill in an important gap in our understanding because it has appeared that there were groups competing for control and ruling indirectly through vassal tribes," he said.

The coins were found buried in a street near a gate that is being excavated. The discovery site is about three feet below the current ground level and is adjacent to a modern road that runs along the beach.

Experts suggest the coins may have been hidden by a traveller who could have been carried off when bedouin attacked a pilgrimage of North African Muslims in 1024.

The Oriental Institute began its excavations at Aqaba in 1985. Among other things, the team has excavated glazed ceramics and porcelain pieces which were part of a well-established trade route that linked Aqaba and China and other regions in Asia and the Middle East.

The port had been a Roman city named Ailana and became prosperous during the Middle Ages.

Aqaba, as the Islamic city was known, was surrounded by a wall and contained a large pavilion as its centre. The gate near where the gold coins were found was called the Syrian gate and is being reconstructed as part of a development project. The gate reconstruction provides a viewing area for the site and a location for graphics, maps, and models explaining the history of the site, Mr. Whitcomb said. A museum in Aqaba displays artifacts found at the site.

Aqaba was damaged by an earthquake in 1068 and was fought over during the Crusades. It was apparently abandoned during the early 12th century. The modern city of Aqaba grew from a fortress built a kilometre away from Aqaba in the 13th century.

JUST hosts meeting on clinical services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates from Jordan, Arab countries and two regional and international organisations will gather at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) Monday for a three-day symposium on the role of scientific research in promoting clinical services.

The symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Council (FASRC) is scheduled to review working papers and discuss means of promoting medical and clinical services offered by hospitals.

Dr. Khaled Shreideh, Director of Health Science at the HCST, told the Jordan Times that the symposium is the first of its kind in the Middle East and is designed to underline the role of research in developing medical services in the Arab region.

According to Dr. Shreideh, the World Health Organisation (WHO), which is participating in the meetings, will submit a working paper on the priorities of research in medical services.

Between 150 and 200 researchers are expected to attend the meetings and to review a total of 18 working papers submitted by delegates from Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Yemen, Egypt as well as the Association of Arab Universities and WHO.

Dr. Shreideh said that the symposium aims at acquainting the participants with modern technology employed in clinical diagnosis and treatment and to help Arab researchers exchange views about the various research work they conduct individually or through cooperation among their institutions in this field.

The working papers will discuss modern applications in the field of medical and clinical sciences as well as the importance of immunity and medicines and biotechnology currently used in clinical diagnosis.

Dr. Shreideh urged all those interested in the subject, in the private as well as the public sectors, to attend the meetings and benefit from their deliberations.

Committee seeks Arab help against Greek clergy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Orthodox Initiative Committee held a press conference in Amman Saturday to focus attention on the status of the Orthodox community in the occupied Arab territories.

Committee members reviewed what they called "irresponsible practices on the part of the Greek clergy who are in control of the real estates belonging to the Orthodox community and called for efforts by Arab community in Jordan and Palestine to put an end to such practices."

They also demanded that a Jordanian law on the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, issued in 1958, be amended in a manner that would safeguard the community's rights.

Over the past three days, the committee members have presented their case to the Lower House of Parliament and notable personalities in Jordan and the Greek Orthodox community in the Kingdom to win support for their drive to end the domination of the Greek clergy over the Arab community and its estates in Palestine.

Committee spokesman Marwan Toubassi said the committee has been formed in order to rally

support from Arab Orthodox community in Palestine and Jordan to confront the "practices and excesses by the Greek clergy and to prepare for a national Orthodox conference to be held in Amman in November."

The committee members, who arrived from the West Bank in the past week, had a meeting here with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izziddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi among other officials in Jordan.

Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, who is chairman of the Orthodox Arab Society in Jordan, said that the Greek clergy had been leasing church property to a Jewish firm for development.

After a general discussion held here Thursday in the presence of a number of Parliament members, the committee stressed the need for supporting the committee's bid to rid the Arab church community of Greek clergy domination.

Deputy Fakhri Kawa, who sponsored the initial meeting with Parliament members, said in a statement to the press that "any tampering with Arab lands and rights would adversely affect the

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Adam Al Helu at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Abdul Jabbar Ahmad at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled, "Exploring Science" at Fatima Al Zahraa Comprehensive School for Girls, Irbid.

Folklore

- ★ Performance by Al Jeel Al Jadeed troupe for Circassian Folklore at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

Real GDP projected to grow

In spite of the availability of foreign exchange in Jordan these days, in relative abundance, the prudent management of the country's foreign exchange budget remains one of the most important keys to the Jordanian economy, equal to, if not more important than the augmentation of the productive capacity that creates jobs.

In the coming year (1993), a further improvement in the performance of the Jordanian economy will take place. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by around 10 per cent in current prices, to cover the predicted inflation rate of 6 per cent, and leave a real growth rate of at least 4 per cent.

Yet a large gap will continue to exist in the Jordanian balance of payments, not less than \$330 million, which must be secured, one way or another, in order to make ends meet and safely sail through the year.

As a matter of fact, the overall financial gap in 1993 will exceed one billion dollars (\$1,058 million according to the projections of the economic adjustment programme). What we referred to above is the net final gap after deduction of all available and expected sources from which to fill the gap.

The deficit in the current account of the balance of payments, before foreign aid but including \$422 million of interest that will

fall due on foreign indebtedness, is estimated to reach \$ 707 million. On the other hand, the principal installments which will also fall due during 1993 will amount to \$761 million. Thus the total amount in foreign exchange, which should be obtained from sources outside the Jordanian economy, will total \$1,468 million.

However, we know with a reasonable degree of certainty that Jordan will receive foreign assistance in the form of unrequited transfers (grants) on the order of \$160 million. The developmental soft loans are also expected to yield up to \$250 million. Thus the actual gap will amount to around \$1,058 million.

Ways and means suggested by the economic adjustment programme to face this remaining large gap are: First, the rescheduling of \$549 million of the principal installments by deferring repayment for 10 to 20 years. The installments that qualify for rescheduling through Paris Club and London Club make some 70 per cent of all installments due in 1993. Second, the capitalisation and rescheduling of \$178 million of interest forms around 42 per cent of all interest that will fall due for payment in 1993. Thus the cost of debt service will be reduced by around \$727 million or 60 per cent of all debt service. The remaining \$446 million or 40 per cent of the debt service will not be subject to rescheduling and must be paid.

Rescheduling of foreign debt will reduce the financial gap that needs coverage through extraordinary measures to \$331 million. If the government fails to secure this amount as extra grants or developmental soft loans, Jordan will have no alternative but to draw on the reserves that were accumulating with the Central Bank. Such a possibility means the consumption of almost one third of the Central Bank's reserves in foreign exchange and will deal a blow to the stability of the economy and to public confidence in the Jordanian dinar.

Of course the government can always revert to restrictions on external trade and foreign exchange transferability, but such a policy would be a set-back to the adjustment programme and an outright breach of the commitments that the government made to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in the letter of intent. Such a course of action is not a viable option to be considered.

The success of this government's economic and financial policy in 1993 will be measured by its ability to cover the final gap of \$331 million without invading the Central Bank's reserve which should have only one direction: to grow at the best and to stabilise at the worst of circumstances. The reserve should not be allowed to melt down if the current investment momentum is to be enhanced or maintained.

Wrong use of 688

WASHINGTON AND its immediate Western allies invoked U.N. Security Council Resolution 688 for justifying their decision to declare a no-fly zone in southern Iraq ostensibly to protect the Iraqi Shiite population from "oppression" by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime. On closer look, the involvement of the U.N. Security Council in Iraq under that resolution rested on two intertwined pillars. The first is the "massive flow of (Kurdish) refugees towards and across international frontiers" that lead to "cross border incursions;" and the second rested on the premise that such a development had "threatened international peace and security in the region." In other words, the Security Council acted not only to prevent systematic and grave human rights violations but also because such violations threatened regional peace and security. In the case of southern Iraq, no case was made that the human rights situation there threatened regional or international peace and security. Acting alone on the assumption that the human rights situation in southern Iraq is grave would not be sufficient under Resolution 688. This is one point that has to be taken into consideration.

Another important issue is that Resolution 688 does not call for the use of force in any case. The operative paragraphs of that resolution condemn the "repression of the Iraqi civilians in many parts of Iraq, including most recently in Kurdish populated areas, the consequences of which threaten international peace and security."

The second operative paragraph merely demands that Iraq end immediately "this repression," and expresses the hope that an open dialogue take place "to ensure that the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens are respected." The other provisions of the resolution call on Iraq to allow immediate access by international humanitarian organisations to all those in need of assistance in all parts of Iraq. That is all that was contained in Resolution 688.

If the U.S., Britain and France seek to intervene militarily in Iraq for human rights reasons, it would appear necessary that they seek a specific authorisation from the council for that purpose. Otherwise, their decision to reign supreme in Iraq's southern airspace would be *ultra vires* from a legal point of view. This is not to suggest that the U.N. Security Council cannot act forcibly if necessary to prevent grave human rights violations anywhere in the world. But such intervention requires a specific resolution after finding that the seriousness of these violations threatens regional peace and security. As things stand now, such a case has not been made as far as southern Iraq is concerned.

The air-exclusion zone in Iraq is unlawful, sets dangerous precedent

By Pascal B. Karmy

It seems that the ingenious mind of the superpower, the U.S., and its European allies has gone astray. It has exceeded the limits of wise policy in international relations, particularly in the Middle East.

The U.S., the British, the French, the Russians and the probable urging of extremist Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, have come up with the unjustified plan of establishing an air-exclusion zone in the south of Iraq, below the 32nd parallel, in which the flight of Iraqi aircraft, including helicopters, is prohibited. This will eventually have the concrete effect of creating a Shiite zone more or less independent of the central government and consequently a separate entity, to put it mildly.

In establishing such a zone, the U.S. and its coalition partners will be heading towards a slippery and dangerous course. Their act is not supported by the Security Council resolutions on Iraq even if those resolutions are liberally interpreted. Thus the establishment of a no-fly zone in Iraq does not fall within the ambit of the enforcement measures imposed upon Iraq under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. Consequently, the establishment of this zone and the shooting down of any Iraqi aircraft which flies over the zone constitutes an interference in the affairs of Iraq and a

flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter. In effect it constitutes an aggression on Iraq.

Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the U.N. Charter provides as follows:

"All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations."

Paragraph 7 of the same article provides as follows: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter VII."

And as stated above, the enforcement measures imposed upon Iraq under Chapter VII do not entitle the U.S. and the coalition partners to establish an air-exclusion zone in Iraq.

Apart from the illegality of the air-exclusion zone, it is in itself a dangerous precedent, especially in the mosaic states of the Middle East. Its establishment is allegedly grounded on the fact that the Shiites in

the south of Iraq are being persecuted by Saddam Hussein's government. A similar allegation of persecution and consequent intervention in the Middle East states and even in Western and Eastern Europe will lead to absurdities.

One however may rightly wonder why the U.S. and its European partners have not tried to make a separate zone of the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the umbrella of the United Nations so as to protect the Palestinians from the savage treatment of the occupying power as provided in Geneva Convention IV of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians. How has the conscience of those powers been awakened to protect the Shiites from their own government but was and still is in doldrums as far as the Palestinians are concerned?

Why haven't the U.S. and its European partners interfered yet in Bosnia, where the Serbs are carrying out real genocide against Bosnians, Croats and Muslims?

The Shiites, on the other hand, form part and parcel of Iraq since the advent of Islam in the 7th century A.D. They enjoy rights and privileges on the same footing as other Iraqi citizens. They participate in Iraqi politics as members of parliament or of the government and many of them were ministers or prime ministers. If

dictatorial or despotic rule prevails in Iraq, it is applicable across the board to all citizens and not necessarily aimed at the Shiites only.

It is claimed by the U.S. and its coalition partners that they do not intend to partition Iraq and they respect its independence and integrity. Those are fine words to hear. But on the ground it is greatly feared that the establishment of an air-exclusion zone will be exploited by the Shiite extremists so as to form a separate entity and thus dismember Iraq, as has actually happened with the northern Kurdish part of Iraq.

The Kurds of Iraq are virtually independent for all intents and purposes as they have now their own parliament and their government, separate from the Iraqi state. In other words, they have their own mini-states. But the creation of mini-states on ethnic or confessional divisions will inevitably lead to internecine conflicts resulting in instability in the Middle East.

We are presently witnessing numerous conflicts along ethnic or confessional lines in what used to be called Yugoslavia and in the ex-Soviet Union, with disastrous and tragic effects on the civilian populations. Such a result is neither in the interest of the U.S. nor in that of Europe or, for that matter, of the new world order.

Iraq still toughening it out, won't back down in crisis

By Victoria Graham
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has proven to be a master of brinkmanship, pushing a crisis to the limit then backing down a bit and proclaiming victory.

In the latest confrontation between Iraq and the United States, Britain and France over a no-fly zone in the south, the Iraqi leader is at the brink again.

As in the past, he is strongly resisting, warning of unspecified consequences and hinting at no cooperation with U.N. weapons inspections, U.N. humanitarian efforts and the presence of U.N. guards for relief work.

He could decide that it's worth the price to defy the ban and invite a limited allied strike, thereby demonstrating his determination not to accept de facto partition of his nation as well as the allies' presumed brutality.

After all, Saddam Hussein has survived the Gulf war, rebuilt and repaired war damage and endured the stifling international sanctions clamped after his August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

He appears well entrenched. And the allies' no-fly zone has scant, or non-existent support, in much of the Arab World which fears that a safe haven for Iraqi

Shiite Muslims would play into the hands of neighbouring Iran. Many nations also see a dangerous precedent in the "big three" in effect dividing the Iraqi nation.

Iraq may calculate that support will further erode.

An Iraqi government official, who spoke on condition he not be identified by name, made it clear in an interview with the Associated Press that Iraq had nothing to lose by taking a hard line.

Despite Iraq's implementation of many Gulf war ceasefire requirements, he said, economic sanctions have not even been eased. President Bush says they will remain as long as Saddam Hussein is in power and on Wednesday he virtually called for the president's removal.

"If you tell someone you're coming to kill them, what can you expect from them? The official asked. "There is no room for compromise."

"What Iraq is going to do next remains to be seen," he said, adding that it has the right to resist Iranian infiltrators in the southern region covered by the no-fly zone.

"If Iraqis penetrate the border we have to respond," he said. "If Iraq is attacked we will respond."

He said Iraq earlier informed the allies that it does not intend to fly combat sorties against rebels or infiltrators, only training sorties and reconnaissance missions. But such non-combat flights also might be considered provocative by the allies.

The Baghdad official also said Iraq would have to reassess a range of important U.N. issues which are influenced by the three allies, but he declined to be specific.

"We have to reconsider everything relating to our strategy concerning U.N. resolutions and implementation and the memorandum of understanding," which permitted U.N. relief workers and guards to work in Iraq, he said.

"If the three allies were interested in the continuing work of U.N. (inspection) teams — 42 up to now — they would not go ahead with this stupid new threat," he said.

A new weapons inspection team arrives Monday. Talks on renewing the agreement permitting U.N. guards broke off last week.

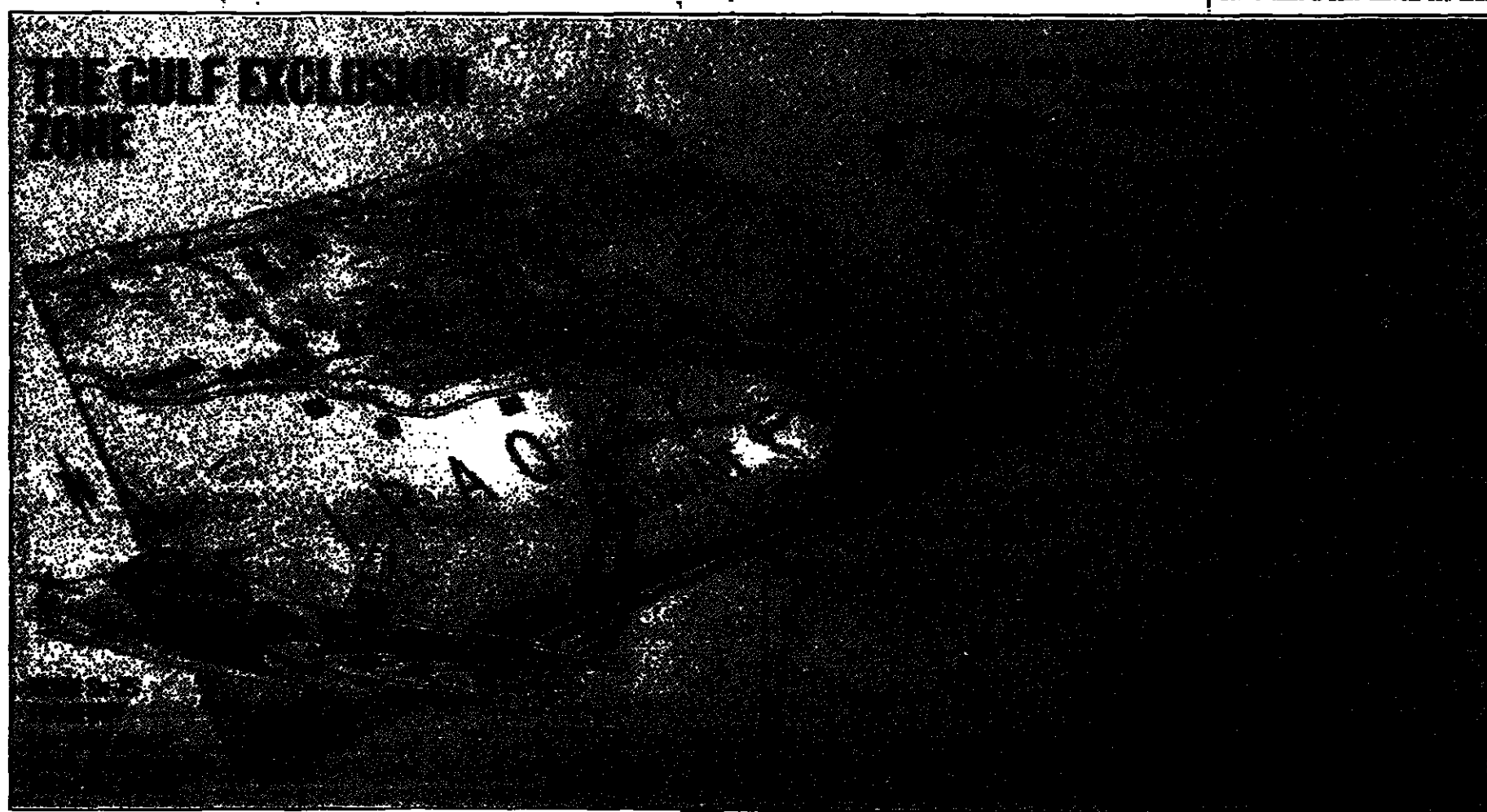
In light of the no-fly zone, Iraq was not expected to resume talks or extend visas for guards or workers.

"We are damned if we do cooperate and damned if we don't," the official said. "Practically, we lose nothing by reconsidering these matters."

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic paper Saturday commented on the arrest of a Parliament member, noting that the Jordanian judicial system can prove whether a citizen is guilty or innocent whatever his position or his status is. The Jordanian judiciary considers all citizens innocent until proved guilty and therefore there can be no room for speculation about the case, said the paper. Respect of the Jordanian Constitution and the various Jordanian authorities — legislative, judiciary and executive — remains the best guarantee for the democratic march of this country, the paper continued. It said that the Jordanian society believes in dialogue in the course of settling issues and through negotiations rather than confrontation with weapons. Since this country has chosen the path of democracy there can be no room for violent methods to achieve one's purpose; and since the law is to be upheld and respected, there can be no room in society for those who choose to challenge this serious commitment, the paper added. It said experience has proved that only through national unity and through cooperation among the members of the Jordanian family can Jordan's progress under democracy be achieved. The paper said that the Jordanian society can by no means sacrifice its gains and never allow work in the darkness substitute honest work, done in daylight and within the concept of pluralism, stressing that peace can never be achieved through the use of weapons.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised the short period of time given to the Arabic news bulletin on Jordan Television, noting that a limited news bulletin can by no means offer full coverage of events around the world. Nazih said that the news room in Jordan Television produces half an hour of news regardless of the volume of world events, which gives cause to dissatisfaction for the viewers who often turn to other stations in order to get the full picture about a certain event. The writer said that by turning to other stations viewers often discover that they have been deceived and that more can be seen and learnt. He said that perhaps there are strict instructions which required that the news bulletin be so limited in time, but this is done at the expense of the viewers, causing dismay and dissatisfaction. The writer pointed out that even the events on the local scene and in the Arab World require more than half an hour to be covered. He demanded that more time be assigned for the news and that accuracy and truth be presented to the viewers at all costs. He urged those responsible for the news and their directors to take steps that can provide satisfaction to the viewers and gain credibility.



Kuwaitis worry Bush may lose U.S. election

By Mariam Isa
Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwaitis are worried that U.S. President George Bush, their Gulf war saviour, will not be reelected.

The emirate's own elections, the first since 1965, are due in October but many people are far more concerned with following the twists and turns of the U.S. presidential campaign.

Men at traditional diwanis — informal gatherings for political discussion — are often glued to television sets with satellite links broadcasting the latest news from Washington.

Mr. Bush's standing in U.S. opinion polls is closely scrutinised. It goes without saying that if he were running in Kuwait's parliamentary elections, he would win by a landslide.

"If I had the opportunity to go to the United States and give my vote to Bush, I wouldn't hesitate," said Ibrahim Al Fahd, a retired army colonel.

U.S. embassy officials say they are besieged with calls from prominent and ordinary Kuwaitis asking how they can help Mr. Bush get reelected. Offers of financial aid are common.

Patiently, U.S. diplomats explain laws against foreign campaign contributions and point out that a change in leadership would have little impact on U.S. policy towards the emirate or a 10-year defence pact signed by Kuwait and Washington last year.

But most Kuwaitis still see the Republican president, who galvanised Western allies into action after Iraq's August 1990 invasion, as the man responsible for Kuwait's liberation.

"If Bush wins the elections we'll slaughter a sheep and distribute sweets," 64-year-old Hameed Abbas said as he sipped tea in a traditional coffee shop.

"We worry very much about Bush — we pray to God he will succeed," Nooriyah, a veiled 35-year-old housewife said.

Kuwaiti concern over Mr. Bush's political standing shows that 18 months after the U.S.-led coalition routed Iraqi forces, the emirate's adulation of all things American is far from over.

Delighted children flash V-signs at U.S. soldiers in the street. American T-shirts and baseball clothes are more popular than ever and post-liberation watches use a U.S. flag instead of a hand to indicate the time.

Pro-American graffiti is scrawled in public places and the sign for Kuwait City's busy Bag-

dad Street has been repainted and renamed Bush Street. Calendars displaying the U.S. president in Arab clothes are collector's items.

Some Kuwaitis have named their children after Mr. Bush while prize camels and horses have been named Schwarzkopf in honour of the U.S. general who commanded the victorious coalition.

The United States is now Kuwait's main trading partner and a friendship foundation has been formed to further business links.

And the Gulf war has brought a shift in the average Kuwaiti's attitude toward the most sensitive Middle East issue, Israel's occupation of Arab land.

"Before it bothered me, now it does not," said Abdul Hameed Al Sagar, who works at Kuwait's

Education Ministry. "We served the Palestinian people before and saw no benefit from it ... Israel also wants to survive."

Most of Kuwait's 450,000 Palestinians, the emirate's biggest foreign community, were forced to leave after the war in retaliation for their perceived sympathy for Iraq.

"Israel is more honourable than Iraq — this is reality. We received no harm from Israel, only Iraq," Hamza Abbas, 61, said.

Relations with other Gulf war allies like Britain have also improved but Kuwaitis say they have been charmed by American informality and friendliness.

"Frankly they give me a very good feeling — they do everything with simplicity, and when I see them in the streets they're

very cordial and friendly," said Menal Mohammad, a female student who wears an Islamic headscarf.

"When the Iraqis came they were afraid. Now when I see an American I feel safe," Nooriyah said.

Some Kuwaitis acknowledge that the emirate's oil was probably as much a factor in the war against Iraq as humanitarian principles. But even this does not seem to matter.

"The whole world looks after its own interests," said Ahmad Abdullah, a bearded Muslim fundamentalist.

"We need U.S. troops now because of the Iraqi threat — and I am sure they are getting something out of it. No one does anything for free, even the man who washes my car."

Bonn set to crack down on garbage smuggling

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuters

BONN — Germany, the world's largest waste exporter, is set to crack down on garbage smuggling as the country's strict environmental rules tempt more and more people to dispose of their unwanted rubbish abroad.

"To fight particularly serious environmental crime, we will double the sentence to a maximum of 10 years imprisonment,"

Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Schwarz told the newspaper Bild am Sonntag.

Hans-Ludwig Zachert, president of the Federal Criminal Office, says his office will enforce waste regulations more rigorously in future.

Their remarks followed a report by Der Spiegel magazine that Germany was delivering huge amounts of plastic waste to

Slovenia, Romania and Hungary. It was sent there after it had been collected for recycling as stipulated by Germany's new packaging law.

Under the law, the first in a series of recycling regulations Bonn plans to introduce during the next few years, industry is required to collect at least 80 per cent of used packaging for recycling.

The latest waste scandal broke out only four days after France angrily announced a sudden ban on imports of household garbage. It caught at least nine trucks illegally bringing syringes, bloodbags and other hospital waste from Germany.

Environment Minister Klaus Toeffer, who is meeting his French counterpart on Monday to discuss the ban, is working on new proposals to restrict waste exports.

He plans a total ban on such exports to Third World countries and Eastern Europe, limiting the garbage trade to the world's richest nations, a ministry spokesman said.

In 1990, Germany exported about 552,000 tonnes of toxic waste and 557,000 tonnes of municipal garbage to other Western coun-

tries, notably France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

But the Environment Ministry assumes there were much larger illegal waste exports to developing countries and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Toeffer attributes the increase in the illegal waste trade — cases have increased by nearly 20 per cent — to huge profits and a shortage of German processing plants.

While stringent regulations are increasing the amount of waste in need of processing, Germany's complicated and lengthy procedures are hindering construction of new incinerators or landfills.

Mr. Toeffer said East Germany, particularly, was unable to cope with toxic waste, such as pesticides or paints, which it had manufactured under the communist regime but was no longer allowed to use under Bonn's regulations.

The French ban had an immediate effect on several cities in the southwestern state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, including Ulm and Heidelberg.

The cities, which export a total of 400,000 tonnes of garbage to France each year, have asked residents and firms to hold on to their waste for the time being.

In Germany, the cost of burning simple household garbage runs as high as 250 marks (\$175) a tonne. Burning or dumping toxic waste costs between 1,000 marks (\$700) to 6,000 marks (\$4,200) a tonne.

In contrast, it can cost as little as five marks (\$3.50) or 10 marks

(\$7) a tonne to dump waste illegally, according to experts at the Federal Environmental Agency in Berlin.

Andreas Bernstorff, an expert on garbage trade with the environmental group Greenpeace, told Reuters that East Germany was exporting pesticides to

Romania, Czechoslovakia and possibly the former Soviet Union. In May, Romanian police discovered more than 600 tonnes of highly toxic chemicals illegally imported from Germany dumped in the Transylvanian city of Sibiu.

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD), West Germany exported 805,400 tonnes of hazardous and special waste in late 1980s.

The next largest exporter in this category was the Netherlands with 188,000 tonnes, followed by the United States with 127,000 tonnes.

Iraq hopes to wear out coalition

(Continued from page 1)

An Iraqi newspaper said on Saturday the "no-fly" zone could leave Iraq weaker than ever as part of a campaign to tear it apart.

"The ultimate aim of the series of wars, economic sanctions and partition plans is to weaken Iraq," said an editorial in Al Jumhuriyah.

"The attempt to establish a southern pocket to dismember Iraq will put the country in its weakest state," the newspaper said, but it added:

"The Iraqi people, owing to their long experience in fighting the disease of partition ... and the ignorance among the conspiratorial aggressors of the reality of the homogeneous structure of the Iraqi people, will never be partitioned under any circumstances."

The Washington Post reported Saturday that the Bush administration is preparing to counter anticipated Iraqi attacks on Shiite Muslims with possible air strikes and the creation of a Shiite "safe haven."

The paper quotes administration officials speaking anonymously who said the ban on Iraqi flights was the "first step" in a campaign to pressure Iraq.

The officials' comments run contrary to President George Bush's assurance on Wednesday that the main purpose of the "no-fly" zone was to "monitor" Iraqi military activities in the southern part of the country.

The paper quotes a senior Pentagon official as saying that "should deterrence fail, we have to look at alternative, additional steps ... there's quite a number of things" that could be done.

Options include bombing Iraqi military targets and establishing a more aggressive "security zone" for the Shiites, the paper quoted officials as saying.

A Tehran-based Iraqi opposition group said Saturday the Baghdad government arrested thousands of Shiite Muslims two days before the "no-fly" zone was imposed.

Sheikh Abu Maythem Al Saghir, an official of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), said some 10,000 Shiite civilians were rounded up in the southern cities of Basra, Amara, Nassiriya, Diwaniya and Najaf.

"The arrests were random," Sheikh Saghir told Reuters. "On the Nassiriya-Basra highway, everyone that was found was arrested and put on the military trucks patrolling the highway."

"The government troops are searching for weapons and the troops are emptying all the food stores so the people in the south do not put their hands on the rifles."

Bells tolled at churches in east Beirut and on Mount Lebanon on Saturday "to mourn democracy" in Lebanon, which was wracked by civil war from 1975 to 1990.

In East Beirut shops and businesses were shut and traffic was thin, as Lebanese troops backed by armoured personnel carriers beefed up security in the mainly-Christian sector.

Al Safir daily said 59 Christian and Muslim candidates had withdrawn their names. Posts and Communications Minister George Saadeh of the Christian Falange Party quit the government with Mr. Bouez and also scrubbed his candidacy.

The most prominent Muslim to withdraw is Tamam Salam, son of former Prime Minister Sa'eb Salam.

In West Beirut, supporters of the election roved the streets on Saturday in convoys of cars to cheer on their candidates.

He charged in the interview that Tunisia is holding and subjecting to torture more than 30,000 political prisoners.

Mr. Ghannouchi called Friday's verdicts "unjust and unjustified."

"We ask for a visa for a political party, and the government responds with a trial in a military barracks," Mr. Ghannouchi told the Arab language service of Radio France International in an interview from London.

"Tunisia is ill from its police regime," Mr. Ghannouchi said. "The remedy lies not in military barracks but in the establishment of a democratic political life based on the results of elections and respect of human rights."

He charged in the interview that Tunisia is holding and subjecting to torture more than 30,000 political prisoners.

Mr. Ghannouchi said that Mr. Dughi was also seeking to gain permission to see Sheikh Qarash in person.

According to provisions in the law, the prosecutor-general has the authority to deny bail or contacts with the suspect for up to 15 days. Informed sources said that the period was set at 10 days in Sheikh Qarash's case.

Sheikh Qarash was arrested Thursday after security forces raided his office and home, where "documents" related to the underground organisation were reportedly found. Nine others were also detained in connection with the case, which, according to informed sources, involved a clandestine group calling itself "Vanguards of Muslim Youth" allegedly set up by Sheikh Qarash. The group was unheard of before.

An unspecified amount of arms and explosives were found during a raid of a Jabal Hussein shop and "other places," and these "were traced back to Qarash," said one of the sources.

Parliament members enjoy immunity from legal proceedings except with specific clearance from Parliament when it is in session. Sheikh Qarash was arrested one day after Parliament closed after an extraordinary session.

"It is the first time in Jordan's history that a parliamentarian is detained under suspicion of leading or belonging to an armed group."

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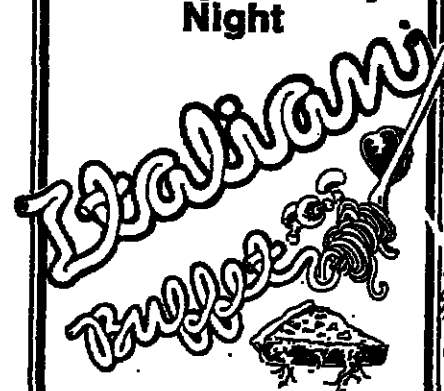
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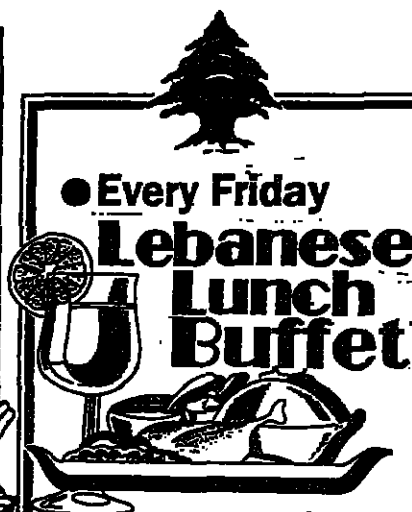
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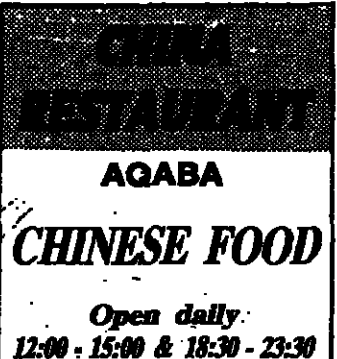
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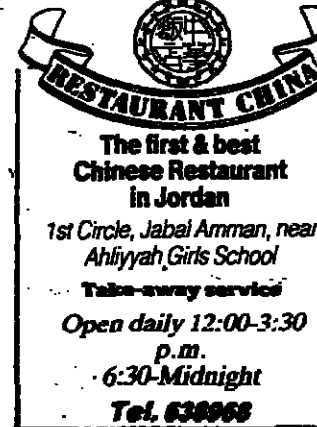
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Jordan Times



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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 1992 7

Australia increasing air links with Asia

CANBERRA (R) — Air services between Australia and Asia are set to expand dramatically following the signing of two air agreements, Australian Transport Minister Bob Collins has said. "A major expansion of flights to and from Australia and Asia" will occur under the deals recently signed with Malaysia and South Korea, Mr. Collins said in a statement. He said Malaysia had agreed to a policy allowing new Australian international carriers to enter the Malaysian market. Until now Malaysia's policy meant that Qantas was the only Australian operator able to land at Kuala Lumpur. Domestic carrier Ansett was given international rights in June in a shake-up of Australian aviation, which also saw the merging of Qantas with the government-run domestic carrier Australian Airlines.

Italy forced to defend lira as mark surges

EC rules out realignment of semi-fixed currency grid

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) governments Friday ruled out any realignment of currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS) and pledged coordinated action to maintain rates in the semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

A statement by the EC monetary committee, which groups central bankers and top treasury officials from the 12 EC states, said an EMS realignment would not be an appropriate response to tensions in European foreign exchange markets.

"The member states of the European Community are committed to economic and monetary stability in the EMS which is an important element of European prosperity," the statement, issued in Brussels, said.

"The governments of the member states agree that a change in the present structure of central rates would not be the appropriate response of the current tensions in the EMS," it added.

The statement was immediately welcomed by Britain and France, whose currencies have fallen in the ERM grid due to strong buying of the German mark and worries about the future of EC plans for economic and monetary union (EMU).

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel called the statement a signal to foreign exchange markets and said it demonstrated that the EMS worked.

"It demonstrates the cooperation within the European Community and shows the EMS is important and works. The statement is also a signal to the markets," he said in a statement released in Bonn.

The monetary committee statement indicated EC central banks would continue to intervene in currency markets to maintain existing ERM parities.

"The authorities of Community member countries are actively pursuing economic policy cooperation and stand ready to enforce their cooperation to ensure an appropriate functioning of the EMS," the statement said.

Dealers have sent the weak Italian lira and British pound down towards their floor rates in the ERM grid this week, with the mark and Belgian franc particularly strong.

Traders in London said the statement helped the lira pull away from the floor against the mark in late European trading. But they added tension in the ERM would not disappear just because EC governments wished them to.

In London, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said: "I welcome this clear and unequivocal statement by EC finance ministers."

"It demonstrates the willingness of our European partners to cooperate intensively to maintain stability in the financial markets," he added.

French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said in Paris: "I am very pleased with the reaffirmation of the common will of the member states of the EC to maintain and reinforce their cooperation. This displays the profound solidarity that exists between European countries."

"The EMS is and will remain a fundamental point of stability in the international monetary system," Mr. Sapin added.

The monetary committee welcomed the activation of the so-called Basle-Nyborg agreement, under which EC central banks agreed in 1987 to take appropriate steps before their currencies hit their absolute upper or lower limits set by the ERM.

Action such as direct intervention on currency markets or changes in domestic interest rates are expected once a currency reaches 75 per cent of its permitted fluctuation against its fixed central rate against the European Currency Unit (ECU), the EC's

basket currency.

Any realignment is virtually ruled out until after a French referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European union on Sept. 20 as EC government struggle to maintain a show of calm and unity.

But economists say a no vote in France would scuttle plans for economic and monetary union, one of the central plans of the Maastricht treaty, agreed last December.

A French rejection could also call into question the commitment to financial discipline of government such as Italy's, which would have been required in the run up to EMU.

Dealers expect such uncertainty about future policy would increase pressure for a general realignment of the ERM, which includes all EC currencies except the Greek drachma.

There has been no wholesale change in central cross-rates since January 1987.

Under the ERM, the mark, French franc, guilder, Italian lira, Danish crown, Irish pound and Belgian/Luxembourg franc — already fixed in a monetary union — are allowed to fluctuate in a 2.25 per cent band either side of their central rate. The Spanish peseta, British pound and Portuguese escudo can swing within a

wider six per cent margin.

The Bank of Italy was forced to defend the embattled lira on foreign exchange markets Friday by selling marks after the Italian currency came under fresh speculative assault.

It was the first time the central bank had stepped into the fray outside the official fixing sessions since a surge in the mark sent the EMS into crisis.

In early afternoon, the lira touched 765.40 to the mark, its minimum permitted level within the 10-member EMS grid of currencies. It had been officially fixed at midday at 765.15, a new official low.

Under the EC's currency grid rules, both Italy and Germany are obliged to ensure their currencies do not get out of line within the system, although there was no immediate sign of action from Germany's Bundesbank.

The lira has been hurt by continuing speculation that the mark's surge, principally against the dollar, will eventually force the EMS countries to accept a realignment with the weaker currencies, such as the Italian currency, being devalued.

Its prospects were further dented late Friday when balance of payments figures revealed a record 10.52 billion lire (\$10 billion) deficit for July.

A senior Bank of Italy official later said early indications for this month's balance of payments were much more encouraging.

Italy has repeatedly said it will not devalue and Bank of Italy Governor Carlo Ciampi reaffirmed Thursday his opposition to any devaluation, saying it would boost inflation.

He said a realignment was unnecessary because the problem was essentially one of the mark and the dollar.

The treasury ministry issued a statement saying it would take "all means necessary" to defend the lira's current position within the EMS currency bands.

Bank of Italy officials said the bank's policy was to keep intervening whenever the lira's rate moved out of line within the EMS but it was not trying to push it up to any particular level.

The difficulties within the EMS have been exacerbated by fears for the future of the EC's plans for closer economic union.

Currency dealers say the bank of Italy is hoping to weather the storm against the lira with interventions until the French referendum is held on Sept. 20.

But analysts say they have no doubt the bank would be ready to drive Italy's already high interest rates even higher to defend the currency if needed.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | NEW YORK Date: 27/8/92 | NEW YORK Date: 28/8/92 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.9795 | 1.9850 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.4085 | 1.4095 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.2604 | 1.2604 |
| French Franc | 4.8015 | 4.7900 |
| Japanese Yen | 124.77 | 125.05 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.4315** | 1.4330 |

USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit Rates

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.25 | 5.43 | 5.50 | 5.62 |
| Sterling Pound | 10.06 | 10.62 | 10.63 | 10.68 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.68 | 9.81 | 9.88 | 9.92 |
| Swiss Franc | 7.63 | 7.69 | 7.69 | 7.69 |
| French Franc | 10.19 | 10.41 | 10.53 | 10.56 |
| Japanese Yen | 4.06 | 3.75 | 3.62 | 3.50 |
| European Currency Unit | 11.09 | 11.12 | 11.12 | 11.06 |

Interest rate bid rates for accounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 339.60 | 6.45 | Silver | 3.65 | .090 |

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.863 | 0.665 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.3131 | 1.3197 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4699 | 0.4722 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.5253 | 0.5279 |
| French Franc | 0.1380 | 0.1387 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.5383 | 0.5410 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.4167 | 0.4188 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.7284 | 0.7290 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0616 | 0.0619 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.02280 | 0.02291 |

Per 100

Other Currencies

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7300 | 1.7400 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.0265 | 0.0295 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1762 | 0.1780 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.2300 | 2.3100 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1796 | 0.1810 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2100 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.6960 | 1.7100 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1796 | 0.1810 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.3730 | 0.3850 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.6100 | 1.6335 |

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

| Index | 19/8/92 | Close | 26/8/92 | Close |
|------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| All-Share | 142.57 | | 140.42 | |
| Banking Sector | 106.17 | | 104.54 | |
| Insurance Sector | 148.69 | | 147.46 | |
| Industry Sector | 193.02 | | 190.06 | |
| Services Sector | 184.70 | | 181.64 | |

December 31, 1990 = 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 29/08/1992

| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADING VOLUME | PREV. PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|---|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| JORDAN TELECOM. BANK | 371 | 2.850 | 2.850 | 2.850 |
| JORDAN KIBANAT BANK | 29,985 | 2.140 | 2.150 | 2.150 |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 16,338 | 2.870 | 2.880 | 2.880 |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 10,385 | 2.120 | 2.090 | 2.050 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 340 | 3.300 | 3.400 | 3.400 |
| AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD | 95,322 | 1.200 | 1.230 | 1.200 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 106,265 | 1.420 | 1.400 | 1.440 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 19,111 | 3.160 | 3.160 | 3.160 |
| NEW ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING | 403,317 | 4.330 | 4.300 | 4.900 |
| AMMAN BANK | 16,375 | 2.140 | 2.150 | 2.150 |
| JORDANIAN INSURANCE | 1,261 | 2.900 | 2.940 | 2.940 |
| JORDAN FRANCHISE INSURANCE | 26,184 | 2.700 | 2.700 | 2.730 |
| AMMAN KAN INSURANCE | 14,200 | 1.490 | 1.420 | 1.420 |
| AMMAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE | 694 | 2.300 | 2.320 | 2.320 |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 2,451 | 1.270 | 1.270 | 1.270 |
| AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS | 21,890 | 4.300 | 4.280 | 4.480 |
| LIVERPOOL & POLARIS | 8,988 | 1.250 | 1.250 | 1.230 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 588 | 2.340 | 2.340 | 2.340 |
| JORDAN PAPER INDUSTRIES / ALKATRA | 1,302 | 6.250 | 6.810 | 6.810 |
| JORDAN KEMBLE BAY & COMPANY HOTELS | 168,282 | 1.850 | 1.840 | 1.890 |
| JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION | 3,815 | 0.260 | 0.250 | 0.260 |
| MASTERSHIP GROUP - BUILDING & MAINTENANCE | 495 | 1.000 | 0.990 | 0.990 |
| PEDIA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING | 4,771 | 0.910 | 0.910 | 0.910 |
| JORDAN OIL & REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 5,163 | 0.630 | 0.630 | 0.660 |
| GENERAL INVESTMENT | 2,529 | 1.500 | 1.500 | 1.500 |
| AMMAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING | 2,718 | 1.420 | 1.390 | 1.400 |
| JORDAN BANK | 97,415 | 2.340 | 2.320 | 2.360 |
| AMMAN ALKATRA INDUSTRIES | 24,818 | 2.350 | 2.300 | 2.350 |
| AMMAN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL | 40,597 | 0.850 | 0.800 | 0.870 |
| THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 8,457 | 5.600 | 5.600 | 5.600 |
| NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES | 189,961 | 5.200 | 5.150 | 5.340 |
| QAR AL BAHAR DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT | 1,270 | 6.350 | 6.350 | 6.350 |
| INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 8,011 | 3.480 | 3.480 | 3.480 |
| JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 3,478 | 4.750 | 4.700 | 4.700 |
| JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES | 1,228 | 0.700 | 0.700 | 0.700 |
| JORDAN PROSPERITY MINES | 3,060 | 3.580 | 3.600 | 3.600 |
| NEW JORDAN TITAN MANUFACTURING | 23,855 | 2.800 | 2.800 | 2.830 |
| AMMAN CEMENT FOR PLUMB & CERAMICS | 58,017 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.030 |
| UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 5,914 | 11.900 | 11.900 | 11.810 |
| ALADON INDUSTRIES | 1,750 | 3.850 | 3.500 | 3.500 |
| BAFTA INDUSTRIES | 3,634 | 3.320 | 3.300 | 3.310 |
| SYNTHETIC & WEAVING | 11,665 | 2.320 | 2.320 | 2.300 |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 10,867 | 5.580 | 5.600 | 5.660 |
| JORDAN SULFO-CHEMICALS | 96,330 | 3.630 | 3.620 | 3.660 |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 33,439 | 1.370 | 1.370 | 1.370 |
| JORDAN ROYALTY INDUSTRIES | 1,420 | 1.420 | 1.420 | 1.420 |
| JORDAN PRIMARY CONCRETE INDUSTRIES | 23,903 | 0.480 | 0.480 | 0.480 |
| INTERNATIONAL MOORE INDUSTRIES | 73,467 | 1.890 | 1.890 | 1.890 |
| AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADING | 67,584 | 2.080 | 2.090 | 2.090 |
| JORDAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES | 20,126 | 7.750 | 7.750 | 7.750 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| GRAND TOTAL | 1,737,415 |
| NO. OF VARIOUS SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET | 5500 |
| TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET | 12376 |

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G.M. 'muscle' car plant closes after making last U.S.-built Camaro

VAN NUYS, California (R) — The General Motors (G.M.) Corp. plant here, for years the proud maker of high performance Camaro and Firebird cars, closed its doors Thursday at a cost of 2,500 jobs.

The site is the second of seven assembly plants the world's biggest automaker will close in the next three years. In March, it shut down an Ohio plant that made large vans.

G.M., which says it was forced to close the Van Nuys facility because of the recession and a shrinking share of the U.S. car market, also plans to shut 15 parts factories by 1995.

New 1993 model Camaros and Pontiac Firebirds, due on the market early next year, begin production in St. Therese, Quebec, in November, marking the first time that the cars will be made outside of the United States.

Lloyd's members express confidence in management

LONDON (R) — Senior officials of the Lloyd's of London won a resounding victory Friday over angry underwriting members in a confidence vote called after the insurance market suffered huge losses.

Lloyd's spokesman Jane Vidler said about 80 per cent of members who returned ballot papers supported a motion expressing confidence in the ruling council.

The motion was the only one approved of five put forward by underwriting members, known as "names," at an extraordinary meeting last month. Members voted in a postal ballot which closed at lunchtime.

The resolution said "the society has every confidence in the council of Lloyd's" and urged it without delay to implement key reforms in the way the market operates. It was passed by 18,508 votes to 4,543.

The July 27 extraordinary general meeting was convened at the initiative of a group of loss-making "names" who were unhappy with the apparent inflexibility of the 28-member council over help to alleviate the burden of vast insurance losses.

Many of the market's 22,000

underwriting members, who accept risks with unlimited personal liability, say they now face financial ruin. Lloyd's syndicates lost \$2 billion (\$4 billion) in their latest accounting year, 1989.

"The council is immensely heartened by the strong vote of confidence shown by the membership," Lloyd's Chairman David Coleridge said in a statement.

Lloyd's could now get on with a programme of structural reform and, as insurance markets improved, could face the future with confidence, he added.

Independent analysts Chatset, editors of Lloyd's league tables, separately warned Friday that the market could lose about \$1.5 billion (\$3 billion) in 1990, as well as another \$750 million (1.5 billion) deficit from shortfalls on previous accounting years.

At last month's Lloyd's meeting, "names" lambasted the council for contributing to their losses by failing to regulate the market properly.

Mr. Coleridge yielded to mounting pressure by announcing that he would not stand for reelection at the end of the year. He nominated broker David Rowland to succeed him as chairman.

Some underwriters were surprised at the margin by which the council carried the confidence vote.

But one noted: "Most members understand that the institution represents them and that if they bring the roof down, they are bringing it down on themselves."

Nigeria to privatise state-owned banks

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government plans to privatise all banks in which it holds equity shares before a planned handover to elected civilians in January.

Hawuzza Zayyad, head of the Technical Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation (TCPC), said Thursday the federal government would sell its stakes in 12 commercial and merchant banks to the public by Dec. 31.

The 12 include the First Bank of Nigeria, Union Bank of Nigeria and United Bank for Africa, the country's three leading high street banks, he told state television.

The government has controlling interests in the three banks, as well as in seven others slated for privatisation before President Ibrahim Babangida steps down on Jan. 2 after presidential elections on Dec. 5. In the remaining two banks the government is a minority shareholder.

The TCPC, a government agency, had earlier denied plans announced by the finance ministry in July 1990 that the government would privatise the banks.

Financial experts said the equivocation stemmed partly from disagreements in government on the fate of the banks, major sources of patronage in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

Bankers and industrialists welcomed the latest decision, saying privatisation should help reduce state meddling in the running of banks and put the banking system on a sounder commercial footing.

"It is an indication that the government is pressing ahead with the deregulation of the financial system," Charles Adjukwu, head of the Money Market Association of Nigeria, told Reuters.

The privatisation plan is consistent with the government's disinvestment programme started in 1989 as part of free market economic reforms aimed at mending an economy crippled by years of mismanagement, low productivity and bureaucratic controls.

Isaac Aluko-Olokun, a senior manager with United Africa Company, quoted by newspapers, said the decision should help Nigeria in debt talks with the IMF and other creditor bodies who have pressed the country to liberalise its financial system.

The central bank Friday said that Nigeria's foreign debt fell 20 per cent to \$26.7 billion in the first half of 1992 but Lagos is still spending a large part of its foreign export earnings on debt servicing.

The bank's mid-year economic report said the debt was down from \$33.36 billion at the end of 1991 thanks to a restructuring deal with Lagos' commercial bank creditors.

The decline "resulted largely from the settlement reached with the London Club of international creditors early in the year," the report said.

Lagos bought back 60 per cent of the \$5.5 billion it owed the banks at 40 per cent of face value under a "restructuring accord signed late last year."

The agreement also included options to convert debt into 30-year bonds and traditional re-scheduling.

However, the central bank said Nigeria continued to spend a significant part of its export earnings on debt servicing, denying it funds to stimulate growth in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

It said further efforts to win debt relief, including cancellation, had limited success this year.

Lagos is negotiating a new standby loan facility with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which it needs to strengthen its claim for easier terms on the roughly \$17 billion owed the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Diplomats said the chances of getting an agreement with the IMF had improved in the past few months and Finance Minister Ahmad Abubakar was having talks in Washington with the IMF.

The talks included a proposal for a gradual reduction in domestic fuel subsidies, an issue that has been a stumbling block in previous talks, a diplomat said.

"There is now agreement between major creditor nations that the subsidy should be lifted gradually and not in one go," the envoy said.

The military government is concerned that a big drop in subsidies could lead to civil unrest.

Nigeria and the IMF signed a 15-month standby credit facility in January 1991 but Lagos failed to get the fund's approval at the mid-term review after failing to meet some of its conditions, including cutting public spending.

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Ghana gets \$32 million in German aid
ACCRA (R) — Germany has pledged \$32 million in aid to Ghana of which \$10 million is an outright grant, the Ghana News Agency (GNA) has reported. It said the west African country's structural adjustment programme would benefit from the cash as well as projects including road

Bosnian forces launch assault to break siege of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AP) — In a last-ditch effort to win territory before an internationally-brokered peace agreement takes effect, Bosnian forces battled to break the siege of their capital overnight and Saturday morning.

A top commander acknowledged that a radio report claiming success had been premature. Mustafa Hajrulah, commander of the Sarajevo Garrison of the Bosnian forces, said Bosnian government forces had attacked Serbian positions in a western suburb of Sarajevo in an attempt to break the siege.

But he said the attack had yet to cut the Serbs off from supply lines that stretch dozens of kilometres over the hills of Sarajevo and end at Pale, the capital of the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to the east of the besieged capital.

The fighting is centred on the suburb of Ilidza — a Serbian stronghold to the west of the city that has been the focus of Bosnian attempts to break the bloody five-month siege of Sarajevo.

If the Bosnians can push the Serbs out of Ilidza they will have almost unfettered control of territory stretching from Sarajevo to their border with Croatia, crucial to weapons smuggling and aid. The problem is that the Serbs are reinforcing Ilidza through extremely secure lines, Commander Hajrulah said.

"They still have all the weapons they need and reinforcements coming in," he said. "It makes it very difficult for us."

Sarajevo Radio reported that Bosnian forces had broken through Serbian lines in the village of Cerkici, which lies outside Ilidza. Commander Hajrulah said Cerkici had been attacked but that Bosnian forces had not broken through the lines.

The attacks were part of a week-long offensive by Bosnian forces to break the siege. Earlier this week, U.N. officers, who are monitoring the fighting, said Bosnian forces lost about 100 men in gaining 200 metres of ground. As these heavy losses indicate, the



A Bosnian soldier mourns friends killed during fighting near Sarajevo

Bosnian forces are seriously outgunned by their Serbian rivals.

Meanwhile, the United Nations in Sarajevo announced that Marrack Goulding, undersecretary-general for U.N. peacekeeping operations, would arrive in Sarajevo Wednesday to supervise the beginning of the peace agreement under which heavy weapons around the city would be monitored by the United Nations.

Mr. Goulding is scheduled to arrive in Zagreb, Croatia, Saturday.

A spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force in Sarajevo said it was still not known when the agreement, reached Thursday at a peace conference in London, would come into effect.

Violence across Bosnia-Herzegovina killed 45 people Friday, including 10 in shelling in Sarajevo, a day after the peace conference that Western leaders said set a course for peace.

Sarajevo's main hospital reported treating 60 wounded in a four-hour period Friday afternoon.

Several fires burned out of

control in the city. An iron and steel mill was ablaze, the fourth factory to burn this week.

At the two-day conference in London that ended Thursday, the Serb leaders also agreed to trade captured land for peace.

Previous talks have failed to stop the conflict. Western leaders continue to oppose military intervention for fear of becoming entangled in a protracted guerrilla war in the rugged Balkans.

At least 8,000 people have died — U.S. Senate investigators put the figure at more than 35,000 — in the 6-month-old conflict pitting ethnic Serb fighters against the Bosnian government, which is supported by Muslims and Croats. The Serbs are trying to create their own republic from Bosnian territory.

Serb leaders promised in London, under pressure from world leaders, to disclose locations of the heavy weapons around Sarajevo and three other cities within 48 hours and turn them over to U.N. supervision within a week.

Previous commitments to put

heavy weapons under U.N. control have gone unfulfilled.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs Saturday asked British Prime Minister John Major to intervene with the Muslims in Sarajevo after what he called a "crazed onslaught" by Muslim forces.

In a statement sent to Reuters from his headquarters near Sarajevo, Radovan Karadzic accused the Muslims of trying to wreck agreements made at this week's London peace conference.

Mr. Karadzic, in a letter to Mr. Major, who chaired the conference, urged the British prime minister to demand restraint from Muslim Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

But Mr. Karadzic, who is in Belgrade, told Mr. Major: "This does not alter our commitment to the principles of the London conference."

He said in his statement: "Bosnian-Serb forces have clear instructions: Only return fire when there is no option and after informing UNPROFOR (U.N. forces) observers."

Canadians fine-tune unity deal; referendum expected

CHARLOTTETOWN, Prince Edward Island (R) — Canadian leaders, meeting in their country's birthplace, put the final touches to a national unity deal with Quebec that will be submitted to Canadians in a referendum.

The accord struck a week ago reforms parliament and shares out federal powers to accommodate Quebec's demands for more political autonomy in a bid to stop the French-speaking province from breaking away.

"The agreement meets almost all of Quebec's traditional demands," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told a news conference after two days of final negotiations over wording.

Mr. Mulroney said, he will announce early next week when a national referendum will be called to put the deal to Canadians and avoid it unravelling before being ratified by provincial legislatures.

Officials said the most likely date for the national vote was Oct. 26, the deadline for Quebec to hold a referendum on its future relation with Canada.

The previous attempt to resolve the threat of separation by Quebec, the Meech Lake Accord, collapsed in 1990 at the end of a three-year process of ratification, angering Quebecers.

Mr. Mulroney said the new deal was broader-based because it granted Canada's 750,000 Indians and Eskimos self-rule, protected the rights of minorities and provided equal Senate representation for all provinces, a key demand by western Canada in exchange for granting Quebec special status.

Quebec gained constitutional recognition as a distinct society within Canada and a guarantee of 25 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons, a formula that preserves its share of political power even if its population declines.

Fighting casts shadow over Azeri-Armenian deal

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Fresh fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan raised doubts about their latest ceasefire agreement and Armenia's foreign minister said he was only "cautiously optimistic" about the deal.

ITAR-TASS News Agency said Minister Raffi Hovannisyan told a news conference there could be no solution to the four-year conflict without the participation of representatives of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

The two former Soviet republics agreed Thursday to call a truce from Sept. 1 in the latest bid to end an undeclared war in which more than 2,000 people have died.

Russia's Foreign Ministry expressed satisfaction with the deal and called on both sides to implement it responsibly.

"We are laying the foundation for a peaceful solution of the Karabakh problem," TASS quoted Mr. Hovannisyan as saying.

But he said Armenia was concerned that Azerbaijan had rejected a request to stop using heavy weaponry and planes in the "run-up to the ceasefire."

A spokesman for Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said of Thursday's surprise deal: "We are tired

of war. We must restore the national economy and we support any peace initiatives."

Despite the ceasefire deal fighting continued unabated in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated area surrounded by Azeri territory and nominally ruled by Azerbaijan.

Armenian reports said 14 people were killed in fresh Azeri bombing raids on the regional capital Stepanakert.

Azeri reports said dozens of people were killed or injured Friday when Armenians shelled the Azeri town of Zangelan, 40 kilometres outside Karabakh.

The Azeri Defence Ministry said Fizuli and Dzhebrail, two other districts southeast of the enclave, were also reported continuing clashes in Marakert, where much of the recent fighting has been concentrated.

Several previous ceasefire accords have been short-lived. Some have been coincided with intensified fighting in a region where ethnic feuding has become a way of life.

Meanwhile, Armenia's top diplomat in the United States has issued an emergency appeal for American surgeons and other physicians to fly to his country to treat people wounded in the conflict with Azerbaijan.

India's tallest man undergoes surgery

NEW DELHI (AP) — A 7-foot-4-inch (223 cm) teenager who is India's tallest man has had tumours removed from his brain in an effort to curb his growth, newspapers reported Saturday.

Doctors at the Osmania General Hospital in the southern city of Hyderabad operated for five hours recently to remove a pituitary tumour embedded in other tumours, the newspapers said.

Mr. Gattaiah, an 18-year-old labourer from Puttoor village in Andhra Pradesh, could have gone blind if the tumours were not removed, hospital Superintendent Gopal Kishan said. Surgeons connected two operating tables to accommodate the patient's tall frame and used made-to-order instruments to inject higher doses of drugs, Mr. Kishan said. Mr. Gattaiah, who only uses one name, will now be able to spend a normal life and will not be confined to bed like many other abnormally tall people, who often develop bone deformities, the superintendent said.

Thousands in U.S. town await Virgin apparition

COLD SPRING, Kentucky (R) — Thousands of people descended on this Kentucky village expecting an apparition of the Virgin Mary at midnight Monday after a Catholic pastor said a mystic told him a miracle would happen. "We've got four buses coming in from all over the country. The restaurant on the corner just got a reservation tonight for 250 people, and it's only Friday," said town treasurer Tom Benke.

"We're hearing that anywhere up to 100,000 people will be coming. We have no motels or hotels here, but there are a lot of campers and people with tents," he said. The pastor of the town's 1,000-seat St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Reverend Leroy Smith, said he was told by a mystic in Ohio that a miracle would occur at his church at midnight on Aug. 31 involving an apparition by the Virgin Mary. Smith has made nine visits to a Bosnian village where Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to six schoolchildren in 1981. A shrine there has become an international magnet for devotion to Virgin Mary, drawing millions of visitors. The Roman Catholic diocese of nearby Covington, Kentucky, has attempted to dampen enthusiasm for the event, saying it involved a private revelation and that participation was not being encouraged or discouraged.

Prize for first to 'do it' in Sydney tunnel

SYDNEY (R) — A Sydney radio station has offered a cash prize add holiday to the first couple to "do it" in Sydney Harbour's new road tunnel, which opens amid great fanfare Monday. The promotion by leading commercial station 2-day FM promptly came under fire from the tunnel builders, who branded it as irresponsible and a threat to public safety. But the station, which will award the Australian dollar 1,000 (\$720) prize to the first entrant to deliver photographs or video evidence, has been inundated with callers who want to take part, according to spokeswoman Linda Jones. "We are expecting hundreds of entries, we even had a video delivered late last night but it does not count because the tunnel is not open yet," she told Reuters. But tunnel joint venture spokesman Liam Bathgate was not so enthused. "It could lead people to getting into a situation where they are in danger of hurting themselves," he said. In the face of criticism, the radio station was coy about exactly what it expected couples to be doing. "We have not been saying what 'doing it' means. We are leaving it up to the imagination," Ms. Jones said.

Irish nurse's eyes are smiling

TRALEE, Ireland (R) — Niamh Grogan, a 24-year-old veterinary nurse from the western county of Galway, fought off a field of international challengers to win Ireland's most famous beauty contest and be crowned Rose of Tralee. Ms. Grogan, a 33-lb outsider against fancied contenders from Europe, the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, said after her shock victory Wednesday night: "I am stunned. I just don't believe it."

Her boyfriend, Conal Brennan, was equally jubilant. He won \$2,400 after the contest. He is first past the post.

Malaysia leads Non-Aligned attack on Belgrade

JAKARTA (R) — Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi led an attempt by Islamic nations Saturday to expel Yugoslavia from the Non-Aligned Movement but met stiff African resistance.

"The movement must be realistic and mature enough now to address the question of the membership of the former Yugoslavia," Abdullah Ahmad told foreign ministers preparing for a six-day summit of the movement, which starts here Tuesday.

Malaysia and other Islamic countries are angry at the treatment of Muslims in the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Abdullah Ahmad said the Yugoslav ally joined the 106-member Non-Alignment movement had ceased to exist after the breakaway of several of its republics, leaving only the rump Serbia and Montenegro.

"Serbia and Montenegro, no matter how disguised, is an aggressor... and is abetting the most serious Serbian atrocities committed against the Bosnian Muslims and Catholics in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said.

Members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) are holding their own meetings in Jakarta on the Yugoslav issue. Nearly all the 47 OIC members also belong to the Non-Aligned Movement.

Abdullah Ahmad's tough language appeared to signal a hardening OIC on Belgrade's participation in the two-day foreign ministers' meeting and determination to prevent it attending the summit.

Yugoslavia, which hosted the Non-Aligned Movement's first summit in 1961, expressed confidence it would retain its membership.

"Everybody has the right to propose everything, but it is the decision of the movement (which we will abide by)," senior Yugoslav diplomat Menad Zirojevic said.

Another Yugoslav delegate said: "I am optimistic. It is impossible to get the consensus to throw us out."

His optimism appeared based on opposition by several African countries led by Benin to what would be the first expulsion from a movement that prides itself on consensus.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Japanese foreign minister in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe arrived in Moscow Saturday to help prepare a state visit by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin to Japan next month. ITAR-TASS News agency said. During his week-long stay he will meet Mr. Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and State Secretary Gennady Gurevich. The talks are not expected to produce any breakthrough on the main issue dividing the two countries — a long-running territorial dispute which has prevented conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty formally ending World War II. Mr. Watanabe is expected to stress Japan's claim to sovereignty over the four islands off its northern coast seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II. The dispute has kept Japan from giving Russia the large-scale financial aid Moscow wants.

Havel plans political comeback

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovakia's ex-President Vaclav Havel plans a political comeback later this year, possibly as the future president of an independent Czech Republic, Prague Radio said Saturday. "I will not disappear from public life that easily," Mr. Havel told the CSTK news agency Friday night after a private dinner with Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus. "I have been politically active for decades and, knowing myself, I will continue to be for some time," Mr. Havel added. Following a pact concluded last Wednesday between Czechoslovakia's two biggest parties, the country will split up into two independent states on Jan. 1, 1993. "The Czech Republic could have its president as soon as it approves its constitution," Mr. Klaus told the agency, adding he hoped this would happen before the end of the year. The agreed break up Czechoslovakia came about after Mr. Klaus's Civic Democratic Party (ODS) and the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) of Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar failed to agree on the future of the Czechoslovak Federation.

Ex-U.N. chief off to help in Peru

LIMA, Peru (R) — Former U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar has left open the possibility of playing a role in his native Peru's political crisis but appears to have resisted efforts to draft him as a candidate in coming elections. A delegation of opposition politicians met the former secretary-general this week to discuss his possible involvement in the crisis, opposition sources said. The government of President Alberto Fujimori last weekend published rules for a November election aimed at restoring constitutional rule. Mr. Fujimori seized sweeping powers in April by dissolving Congress and reorganising the courts. The sources said the opposition was hoping to convince Mr. Perez de Cuellar to head a multi-party list of candidates for Congress.

Grenade kills policeman in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A grenade attack killed a policeman and seriously injured three others in the black township of Soweto, police said Saturday. The attackers in Friday night's incident were not caught, but one was shot and wounded by police as he fled, said police Capt. Govindasamy Mariemuthu. The officers were in a guard station at a clinic at about 11 p.m. when the grenade was hurled through the window, he said. More than 120 police officers have been killed on duty this year, a pace that exceeds last year's record total of 145 police deaths. Militant blacks opposed to the white government have targeted officers, both black and white, for attack. Black officers are seen as sellouts to the white minority government. The policeman killed Friday was black.

Allen's custody chances seem nil

NEW YORK (R) Film director Woody Allen's chances of getting custody of the children he is seeking to take from actress Mia Farrow in an acrimonious legal battle are virtually nil, legal experts said. "There's no chance he'll get custody," said Professor Stephen Gillers of the New York University School of Law. "The answer is between zero and minus one unless there's a smoking gun and Allen has a bag of evidence showing misconduct of a serious nature by Mia Farrow towards those or other children."

Rebel Georgian region threatens guerrilla war

MOSCOW (R) — The leader of Georgia's rebel Abkhazia region said Saturday he would launch a guerrilla war if government troops invaded his stronghold in the coastal town of Gudauta.

"If Georgian tanks storm their way into Gudauta, then I will go to the mountains and fight Georgian invaders from there as long as I have the strength to do so," parliament head Vladislav Ardzinba told local journalists by telephone.

Georgian leaders Eduard Shevardnadze sent troops into the breakaway region earlier this month after the Abkhazians proclaimed effectively declared independence.

More than 100 people have been killed in a month of fighting in the Black Sea region. News agencies said a new

Abkhazian ceasefire proposal received no Georgian support. Fighting continued Saturday.

The journalists quoted Shevardnadze as saying four Georgian Guardsmen were killed overnight in clashes near the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi.

"We are going to investigate the incident and if Abkhazians are found responsible we will have recourse to measures in accordance with the state of emergency," Mr. Shevardnadze said as quoted by the journalists.

"It is a hard step, but we will be forced to take it... We have the strength to do it."

The latest ceasefire, due to take effect at midnight, was proposed by the Abkhazian leadership, who moved up the coast to Gudauta after Georgian troops took over Sukhumi earlier this month.

Angry Clinton says 'desperate' Bush distorting record

WACO, Texas (Agencies) — U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton lashed out at President George Bush's campaign, accusing it of "raw cynicism" as well as repeatedly distorting his record as Arkansas governor.

The Democrat, showing an anger he has largely avoided so far, said he believed his Republican opponents had reached a new low that "called into question the character of the campaign."

Mr. Clinton, on the campaign trail here, was referring to Mr. Bush's claim that the Arkansas governor had raised state taxes 128 times during his 13 years as governor.

Mr. Bush has contrasted those figures with his own record, which he says demonstrates he raised taxes just once, to seal the 1990 budget agreement with Congress.

Numerous news stories have said this assessment is, at best, misleading. They say that various small Arkansas fees were included in Mr. Bush's arithmetic and that none of the many taxes included in U.S. budgets had been tallied.

Mr. Clinton has previously called the Bush charge untrue, but Friday he attacked the president anew after the Boston Globe newspaper reported that a Bush campaign official privately said Mr. Bush knew the 128-to-1 comparison was untrue.

According to the Globe, the official asserted that Mr. Bush would continue to use the comparison because it appeared to be registering with voters.

In a hastily arranged news conference at a natural gas power plant he had just toured, Mr. Clinton repeated his charge that Mr. Bush was "desperate" to be re-elected and would say anything to do so.

"But this outstrips anything I have ever seen in presidential politics for raw cynicism, where ads he is repeatedly, every day, saying something that is untrue," he said.

"They admit it is untrue and but were using it because it works," he said.

"I don't think it'll work," Mr. Clinton added, referring to any political gain to be made from the charge against him.

The Clinton campaign says the Arkansas governor raised taxes 59 times and reduced or repealed taxes 69 times. Citing figures from the Congressional Research Service, it says Mr. Bush raised taxes 78 times. During Mr. Bush's tenure, it says, Clinton raised taxes 16 times.

In Washington, presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater led a White House and Bush campaign counterattack, saying of Mr. Clinton: "This fellow's regard for honesty and veracity is so low that he has no business calling anybody else a liar."

And Mary Matalin, the Bush campaign's political director, said the Democrats are "just flat lying."

A number of independent analyses, including one by the Associated Press, have found the contention of 128 tax increases exaggerated. For example, it

counts several increases twice.

The Clinton camp said it includes items the average voter wouldn't consider a tax increase, such as a lengthening of the dog-racing season in Arkansas, which would be a tax increase only in that a longer season would presumably increase the state's take from wagers.

Republican and White House officials stuck by the 128 figure, saying they compiled it from an Arkansas legislative tax handbook.

Mr. Clinton says America's racial divisions weaken the country and give foreign trade competitors an advantage in global markets.

"Whenever we allow ourselves to be divided and push others off at arm's length, then we're helping our competitors get a leg up," he said at a Friday night campaign rally. "We've got to make up our minds that everybody counts in this country."

Several incidents, including the fatal shooting of a bedridden, elderly black woman by a white police officer have increased racial tensions in the east Texas city of Tyler.

Elsewhere, Los Angeles is still struggling to rebuild from days of rioting that broke out on April 29 following the acquittal of four white police officers who were videotaped beating black motorist Rodney King.

Lesser race riots erupted in numerous other U.S. cities after Los Angeles began burning.

"We need to reach out to one another because we don't have a person to waste," Mr. Clinton said, recalling that he watched

Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his famous "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington 29 years ago Friday.

An already stormy presidential campaign is being hit by a new round of name-calling and finger-pointing over taxes and the environment.

The vice presidential candidates, meanwhile, swapped charges on the environment, with incumbent Dan Quayle saying Democrat Al Gore's ideas are "pretty bizarre stuff."

Mr. Quayle's lead snippets from Sen. Gore's recent bestseller, *Earth In The Balance: Ecology And The Human Spirit*.

"Cars are a 'mortal threat' to our nation; the internal combustion engine must be eliminated. It's all pretty bizarre stuff," Mr. Quayle said.

Sen. Gore wrote that the automobiles' "catastrophic impact on the global environment is posing a mortal threat to the security of every nation that is more deadly than that of any military enemy we are ever likely to face."

Sen. Gore retorted that the White House was "pointing the finger of blame with one hand and passing out pink slips with the other." Pink slips are the notices given to workers who are fired or laid off.

The heated exchange came as the Democrats wrapped up a two-day bus tour across Texas that finished with a rally in Tyler.

Mr. Clinton returned to Little Rock, Sen. Gore was traveling to Detroit Saturday to speak to Michigan's state Democratic convention.